NEW ENGLAND FARMER

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE AND ITS KINDRED ARTS AND SCIENCES.

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NOURSE, EATON & TOLMAN, PROPRIETORS. OFFICE....34 MERCHANTS' ROW. SIMON BROWN, EDITOR. FRED'K HOLBROOK, HENRY F. FRENCH, } ASSOCIATE EDITORS.

CALENDAR FOR MAY.

"When brighter scenes and milder skies
Proclaim the opening year,
What various sounds of joy arise!
What prospects bright appear!"

MAY! Why did they name it MAY? Our Encyclopædia says: "As early as the Salic Laws, this month is called *Meo*, and it would appear that the idea of youthful beauty and loveliness so naturally connected by northern nations with the month of May, gave rise to its name."

The name must have been given a great while ago, then; for although we do not know the precise period when the Salic Laws were first in vogue, we may infer from the fact of their excluding women from the right of inheritance, that it was when the world was in a great state of barbarism. But although generations have passed away, the world continues to say pretty things in praise of May, and to call it by its sweet, suggestive name.

To the common observer, the world is always young. The great ocean dashes its waves against the shore just as it did at "Creation's dawn."

"Time writes no wrinkles on its azure brow."

There is a general air of freshness and newness about the world in a spring day, which has a wonderfully reviving effect. It is true, our planet has kept a kind of journal, by which we know she is not so very young, after all. It is written on the grey-headed rocks, on the hoary-headed mountains, and there are records in her bosom, which those prying people, the geologists, know how to decipher well enough, and they say that five thousand years comprehends a mere fraction of her existence. Yet the dandelions look out of the grass just as gaily as if they were the first dandelions ever created, and the birds sing as merrily as

"The birds that sung
A hundred years ago."

No wonder, then, that the love of nature is one of the last loves that dies out of a man. All pleasures of society, all business pursuits, at times seem "weary, stale, flat and unprofitable," but so long as our senses remain to us, there is always something soothing and restoring in a walk through the lanes, and over the hills. We have often thought that if one of those poor families who live in a tenement with twelve other families in the filthiest part of a great city, could be transported to a neat dwelling, with several acres of land about it to cultivate, their morals and manners would undergo a speedy change. Perhaps it would do more for them, than a home missionary could do.

There is a great deal in being under one's own vine and fig tree; albeit another man's vine and fig tree may be much more thrifty and flourishing than ours, and there is something in the "old homestead" that awakens associations which will live when a thousand intervening events have passed from the memory. We would say nothing of the common superstition that childhood is the happiest period of life, but, at least, its impressions are the strongest. You may forget your first impressions on seeing Niagara Falls, but you will not forget the breathless interest with which you watched some venturesome companion go across

the great beam in the barn, close up where the swallows built their nests. You remember, also, the scaffold at the top of the barn, with a trap-door in it, and you used to creep to the edge of this door, and look down and think, what if you should fall through, on the floor, such an immense distance below! Of course, you hunted hens' eggs—everybody does—but does any one ever dream of finding a nest with a dozen in it, without being awakened before he had a chance to take them out? You have since studied Abercrombie, and know all about the theory of dreams, but at that time it only seemed the perversity of fate!

Doubtless there *are* people in the world who do not comprehend the harmonizing influence of rural life—to whom a yard full of cattle has no more individuality than a herd of buffaloes, or a shoal of herring—who cannot tell *Star* from *Buck*—although Patrick could tell you that there are radical differences in the dispositions of those two animals. Patrick says he can tell, too, a vicious cow by the expression of her eye, as quick as he can tell that a certain cross-grained, angular young woman will make a shrewish wife.

In a general way, there is a permanance about a country town, which a city cannot well have—the population is far less fluctuating. For instance, the first day of May is a signal for all the inhabitants of one street, to leave that, and flee into another. This, perhaps, involves new neighbors, a new church, new associations of all kinds. First of May in the country is a signal for house-cleaning—but it is the same old house, and very likely the same old paint you had cleaned these twenty years—and the same old neighbors are cleaning *their* old paint, and re-arranging *their* old furniture just as you are. In places like these, it is curious to see how, in generation after generation, you can trace the family names and family faces. If you have not been to your native place for years, when you do return home for a visit, you can easily tell all the little Smiths from all the little Browns, by their resemblance to the little Smiths and Browns you used to go to school with. You may even address one of them, although you have never seen him before, by his christian name, without running any great risk, for if it is not *he*, it is his brother.

Though country life has its advantages, we are far from saying that people always appreciate them. It is strange how little pains is taken to select a beautiful site for a dwelling. In riding through the country, it sometimes seems as if the care all went the other way, and that a man studied to select the ugliest spot he could, the one which would command the narrowest view of the surrounding landscape. We have in mind one in particular—you can recall a dozen like it. Soil barren and rocky, not a tree or shrub near it. Yet pines and hemlocks *had* grown there, and were still abundant on the opposite side of the road—but the man had made "a clearing." Why could not he just as well have left some of the trees nature had so kindly planted for him—left them in clumps and groves, so that his dwelling need not look quite so much like a martin box on a pole? It is a new house, and we hope he will immediately set out some trees in place of those he cut down, plant a few woodbines and honeysuckles, thin out those trees on the opposite side, so that he can have a prospect across the country, and so have a "home," instead of "four square walls." His wife and children ought to be very much obliged to us for these suggestions. If he wants to know when he shall begin this reformation, we answer the *first of May* is an excellent time.

For the New England Farmer.

HUNGARIAN GRASS.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—I sowed four bushels of Hungarian grass seed upon ten acres of land, from the 6th to the 16th days of June. In 1858 I got between two and three tons per acre from second quality land, and four tons from good land, made very fine with plow and cultivator, without manure; it yielded grain, or seed, amounting to more than one-fourth of the whole weight, and of the richest kind.

In 1859, in common with some of my neighbors, I was cut short in anticipated results, while others were quite satisfied with its yield. Constant rains prevented my sowing it at the proper time, which is, here in New England, in my opinion, from the 25th of May, to the first day of June.

On the third of July occurred that ever memorable shower, to the inhabitants of this vicinity, which washed down our mountain sides a sufficient quantity of gravel and rocks to make monuments to the event, which will last for ages to come. The same washed out and buried up about half of my seed, after which the cold season and early frosts cut short the rest to a very great extent, leaving me a chance to gather in about ten tons, which proved to be richly worth what it cost me. The hay possesses a sweetness which gives it a preference in the estimation of hay-eaters, and a richness that makes a greater flow of milk from cows fed upon it, and butter of a superior quality. Like corn, it will do best in a warm season; but it will do better in a cold season, like the last, than corn, by supplying the farmer with coarse grain, if sowed at the proper time, with anything like careful management. It should not be sown in New England till the ground gets warm. It will decay before it germinates in cold earth, and if it barely germinates in such earth, and remains so a few days, it will receive a sickly hue, and becomes only capable of a dwarfish existence. I am particular on this point, that those who have a great desire to get all sowing done very early, had better not engage much in its cultivation. I have raised it two seasons, have had as good success in stocking after it, both years, as I ever had with wheat, or any thing else. Very many to whom I

sold seed last spring have testified to its good qualities as surpassing clover and herds-grass, and the pleasure they feel in having it in their possession.

One man in the neighborhood said to me recently, "I like it well, my oxen are always ready for it." I replied, "Are not your oxen always ready for any good hay?" He said, "No. Last fall when I was hauling stone with them, till they were weary, they would lie down on other good hay, to rest, before they would eat it, when at the same time they would be ready for the Hungarian."

Similar expressions are common from those who have proved its worth by feeding it to all kinds of stock. I will further suggest for the benefit of any about to commence the cultivation of it, that it seems to demand one day more of drying than other hay.

I am much inclined to the opinion, that it will be found economy to cut it at the time when the seed is mostly ripe, which happens when the blades are about half turned yellow. In this way I have a good crop of grain, next, if not equal, in value, pound for pound, to corn, and a crop of hay, when well cured, that will compare well with other good hay.

This grass never grows too large and stiff, like millet, but each seed throws up from the root, in any thing like fair ground, from one to five or ten stalks, and sometimes, in rich land, sowed thin, from ten to fifty of about equal size, each covered with its own beautiful blades, and when ripe, a heavy head.

Should any wish to examine its formation, I will send a specimen on receipt of the requisite postage, three cents. WM. RICHARDS.

Richmond, Mass., March, 1860.

For the New England Farmer.

PRACTICAL PROOFS OF PROFIT.

MR. EDITOR:—In the last number of your very valuable paper, a writer from South Danvers heads an article thus: "Practical proofs of profit in farming." The writer mentions a certain locality, where there are thirty or more individuals, who own from five to twenty acres of land, and are in comfortable circumstances, &c., and have managed to lay up a few hundred dollars yearly, and then gives a gentle hint that they would like to avoid their taxes. I do not think it is so, as no class in our community is more willing to be taxed than our farmers. I happen to be a farmer in another part of the town, where good and successful attention is paid to farming, and I consider that there is no occupation more healthy and honorable. Still, we cannot all be farmers, and as the writer has made some allusion to our business men, which seemed to me to be unjust, is why I have thought fit to reply to it. As an old resident in this town, my observation is, that the industrial habits of the people are not, and cannot be surpassed by any other town in the Commonwealth; it is the manufacturing interest of the town that assists us farmers, and wherever there are manufacturers of various kinds, the town and adjacent towns derive great advantage. For my part, I wish that the manufacturing interest might increase, and then we farmers would profit by it. In no city or town can all succeed in business; by some unforeseen circumstances, individuals are stript of their property before they are aware of it; not only the business man, but the retired merchant, the farmer and professional man, all alike are liable to misfortune. J.

South Danvers, Jan. 10, 1860.

For the New England Farmer.

PERPETUAL CROPS OF RYE.

MR. EDITOR:—As your columns are open to your various correspondents, I take the liberty to note a circumstance that has come under my observation on the subject of raising a crop of rye. I have resided in my present location in the town of Fairfield, Ct., for over twenty years, and have noticed a piece of poor land on a hill-side that has been cropped with rye for the last fifteen or sixteen years. During that period, and the last few years, the crops have been equal if not superior to the first. The land itself would not sell for $30 per acre for farming purposes; it is very thin, and full of rocks and boulders, similar to a portion of the side-hill land in this State, and the proprietor, a Mr. Knapp, informed me a few days since that his average rye on this lot, less than three acres, has been from 40 to 45 bushels, or equal to 15 bushels per acre. All the manure and tillage the land receives is five or six loads of poor barn-yard manure, spread alternately on the land before plowing; it receives one plowing, and the seed is harrowed in. It is now stocked for the coming year, and its present appearance indicates an average crop. If this is not more profitable rye farming than the average, I am at a loss to know, and if you can demonstrate the cause of this land being no more reduced by this successive cropping, I should be pleased to learn. The occupier says it will bear this system of cropping *ad infinitum*. JOHN MOODY.

Bridgeport, Mountain Grove, Ct.

REMARKS.—The writer states that this piece of land is on a hill-side. If the piece devoted to rye has higher land above it, the wash of mineral as well as vegetable matter—but especially of the mineral—from the higher land, may account for the perpetual fertility of the rye land. If this is not the reason, we cannot account for it.

CLOVER.—Every farmer should have a piece of clover, whatever other soiling crops he may raise; it not only makes up the variety necessary to keep cattle in health, but its yield is large and profitable; it takes less from the soil, and more from the atmosphere, than most other green crops, and the portion remaining in the soil contains material to improve its mechanical condition, as well as to progress the inorganic constituents which it elevates from the sub-soil after sub-soil plowing, and is almost sure of success on any soil worthy of cultivation.—*Working Farmer.*

TO CURE GARGET IN EWES.—Rub raw linseed oil on the udder once or twice a day. So say Messrs. Nichols and Dickson, in the *Valley Farmer*.

LEGISLATIVE AGRICULTURAL MEETING.

[REPORTED FOR THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER BY THOS. BRADLEE.]

The ninth meeting of the present series of the Legislative Agricultural Society was held last Monday evening, in the Representatives' Hall at the State House. CHARLES L. FLINT, Esq., Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, occupied the chair. The subject for discussion was, "*What are the most profitable crops to raise on Massachusetts farms?*"

The chairman, on assuming his position, said that the subject was one having a wide range, and, in his opinion, should be considered in its relation to the various parts of our Commonwealth, as what would be most profitable on one kind of soil would not answer on another. He was convinced that a few crops would always be staple, such as corn, potatoes, oats, and the smaller grains, yet what would be the most advantageous to raise in Essex county might not be so in the Connecticut Valley, and in the consideration of the question this must be allowed. He spoke of cranberries as an example of a profitable crop, yet he said there were only certain localities in which these could be raised. He considered that under favorable circumstances, for reliability, the grass crop was the best, as from the milk, in the neighborhood of cities, a handsome profit was realized. As a general thing, a good grass farm required but little labor or expense and thus was the most profitable, but in different parts of the State he admitted there were more profitable crops raised, and he alluded, in this connexion, to the tobacco and broom corn of the Connecticut Valley.

Mr. Flint then read portions of a statement relating to the cultivation of flax for making fibrilia, prepared by STEPHEN M. ALLEN, Esq., for the society.

The flax plant may be grown in any climate or soil, although the constituent elements of the fibre will differ on account of changes in either soil or climate. The most favorable climate is that where the temperature is most equable—where neither severe drought nor excessive moisture prevails. The best soil is a dry, deep loam, with a clay subsoil, and this must be properly drained, as when it is saturated with either underground or surface water, good flax cannot thrive; light sandy or gravelly soil, and very strong underdrained clay, should be avoided. The seed should be plump, shining and heavy, and should be sown about two bushels to the acre. After sowing it should be covered with a seed harrow, going over it twice, and once crosswise, and then rolled, covering the seed about an inch. The crop should not be weeded prior to a drought. The fibre is best before the seed is quite ripe, as if it remains longer it becomes coarse. The best time for pulling is when the seeds begin to change in color from green to a pale brown. It can be cut with a scythe or mowing machine, and used as wheat in threshing, and then broken on Randall's Brake, thus doing away with the necessity of rotting. By this plan of harvesting, the roots remain in the ground and act as fertilizers, while unrotted straw is worth twice as much as the same straw rotted.

Col. HEARD, of Wayland, said it was not many years since the corn crop fell in the estimation of the farmers of Middlesex county, but there had been a reaction. He thought that now it was the most profitable crop a farmer in that section could raise. An acre of land, said he, should yield 75 bushels of corn, with good cultivation, and then the ground would be left in a better state for potatoes, oats, or a grass crop, than from any other crop. Corn will sell for from 75 cents to $1 per bushel, and this alone would make it more valuable than hay, without taking into account the stover, which he thought was as valuable feed for dry stock and working oxen as the hay itself. He said that the potato crop was considered by some as the most valuable crop, but he thought this was only where it could be transported cheaply to a market. All things considered, he thought in our mode of agriculture—the rotation of crops—the corn crop was most profitable, and spring rye the next.

Mr. BUCKMINSTER agreed with the previous speaker in his estimate of the value of the corn crop, and considered it not only the most valuable but most sure, and took the returns of the last century to substantiate this. He alluded to the value of the stalks and leaves as food for cattle and horses as being very high. In speaking of the tobacco crop, he thought that it should not be considered as a very reliable crop, as its value was quite liable to fluctuate from the influence of public opinion, and that this crop, in the long run, was not profitable to the community. He said he had conversed with a Chelmsford farmer, a few days ago, who had told him that he could raise no crop so profitable as corn, and that it cost him 50 cents per bushel, while he sold it for $1, thus making 100 per cent. on the crop.

Mr. WETHERELL also spoke in favor of the corn crop, and said that with ordinary good cultivation, 60 to 75 bushels to the acre could be raised in this State. In regard to the value of the fodder, he said a Duchess county farmer had told him that cattle would thrive better on the corn fodder from a given quantity of land than on the hay raised on that same area. A Worcester county farmer had also told him that he could raise corn for 35 cents per bushel.

Col. BRIGHAM, of Grafton, was the next speak-

er. He said that the question depended entirely on the location of the land to be cultivated. He considered that in Worcester county, particularly about where he resided, the hay crop was the most profitable, as in making milk it made the best return. The fruit crop he considered very valuable, but he did not think that a bushel of corn could be raised in his county for less than $1. He considered that the value of corn fodder had been too highly estimated, as, from experiments carefully made by the Board of Agriculture, at Westboro', it was decided that it was only one-fourth the value of English hay. He thought that after corn, turnips and carrots were next in value.

Col. Brigham said he thought apples were the most profitable crop, for money, a farmer could raise, and he named the Baldwin and Hubbardston Nonesuch as the best kinds, giving the preference to the latter, as he said it bore every year, while the former bore every other year. It might be argued, said he, that if every farmer went to raising apples there would be no market for them, but he said England would not only take all that could be raised in this State, but in New England. He thought a crop of Baldwins could be depended on every other year, as he had only known this to fail once in the last twenty years.

Mr. CROSBY said that from his experience he thought there was not so much benefit derived from an orchard of 10 acres as from 10 acres of rye. On his farm the yield of corn for the past 30 years had not averaged less than 50 bushels to the acre, and the price had averaged $1 per bushel in the market. He spoke of the value of Indian meal to young cattle, and said that from experiments with three calves, that a friend of his made, feeding two entirely on hay through the winter and giving the other a gill of meal with hay, the latter was worth the other two together in the spring.

Col. HEARD said that he did not consider the question for discussion included the raising of fruits, as he thought that more pertaining to the horticulturist, and it was with this understanding he had previously spoken. As to raising flax, he considered that this must depend on the demand for the article. In Middlesex county, some years since, a premium had been offered for a crop of flax, and quite a number competed, and the premiums were awarded, but there was no demand for the article, and the culture ceased.

Dr. LORING, of Salem, said the question under consideration involved all the great interests of agriculture, as it was the first matter to be decided, all others depending on it. From his experiments, reading or inquiry, he had not been able to ascertain what is the most profitable crop to raise. We have been told that corn can be raised for 35 cents per bushel by one speaker, while another says it cannot be raised for less than $1, and while this difference existed, he thought it unfair that a man should be charged with want of brains because he advocates root culture. I don't know, said he, that corn is indigenous to Massachusetts. I have never seen or heard it proved, and I don't believe it.

He admitted that fruit culture was profitable for a time, but this did not last. He spoke of renovating old apple trees, and said that in a measure he knew this was profitable, but he would not advocate its being followed up, as it would not pay for the time.

In relation to flax, he said that Mr. Allen had neither given the cost of raising the crop or the value of it, and in the absence of this it could not be considered. He doubted if on light, sandy soils, the hay crop was the most profitable, but on heavy soils he had no question as to the profit in raising that crop. In considering the comparative value of hay, corn and roots, Dr. Loring said it had been stated that a good crop of corn would yield 75 bushels to the acre, while the statistics showed that the average in the State was only 30 bushels. Without agricultural skill, said he, nothing can be done in farming, and he then estimated the cost of raising 75 bushels of corn to the acre, saying that it would require 8 cords of manure to the acre, at $5 per cord; seed, plowing, &c., $10; cultivating twice and hoeing twice, $8; cutting, $1; getting it to the barn, $1, and husking, $3—making $63 per acre in the corn-house. With the same cultivation and manuring, he contended 1000 bushels of carrots could be raised, and this he considered a very profitable crop, and the most advantageous in his section, as taking it for granted that an acre of carrots could not be cultivated for less than $60, it left $87 per acre of profit. It had been argued that the effect of roots on land was bad, but in Essex county no crop had been found so good as the carrot, which, although it could not be cultivated year after year, left the ground in the very best condition either for grass or corn. He spoke of farmers in the Western part of the State having to send to Albany for corn at a cost of $1 per bushel saying that two-thirds of this expense would have been saved had they raised root crops.

Dr. LORING then spoke of the value of the tops of carrots for fodder, and said that in his estimate he had allowed nothing for this. The introduction of turnip culture was an era in the agriculture of England, and Mr. Webster had considered it such an event as to date the rise in English agriculture from that time.

Col. HEARD thought no good farmer would neglect raising as great a root crop as he could profitably attend to with his other crops, as he considered it of great value on any farm, but he sup-

posed, as a matter of course, Dr. Loring did not advocate the raising of roots entirely.

Mr. STOUGHTON, of Gill, wished to know what the average crop of carrots was, as he doubted whether it was over 400 bushels to the acre, and this being the case, it would make a great difference in the profit. In his section tobacco was considered very profitable, and notwithstanding what had been said by a previous speaker, he thought it best for farmers to raise the crop that would put the most money in their pockets. Tobacco would ordinarily yield a ton to the acre with the same cultivation as corn, and would bring $300. He also spoke of the great profit from raising water-melons, but he considered the grass crop of the most importance, and the men who raised this crop he had found to be in the most independent condition.

Mr. S. M. ALLEN, of Boston, then spoke of the cost of raising flax, and the value of the crop, and contended that there would be no more trouble or expense in preparing the soil than for a crop of wheat, and that it could be raised as cheaply as either wheat or oats, at an expense not exceeding $90 per acre, while the value of the crop would be far greater.

It was announced that the subject for discussion at the next meeting would be, "*Manures—the kinds most useful for different crops, and the best mode of application.*"

For the New England Farmer.

THE TRUE OBJECT OF FARMING.

The caption of this article may seem to some readers a queer one, if we consider how generally the accumulation of property is known and conceded to be the ruling motive of the farmer's life. But, although it is the farmer's chief desire, in common with those who follow other pursuits and professions, to "make money," yet, without doubt, it would be far better for him either as a physical, mental, or moral being, to place some other object or aim high above this in his mind.

For a few weeks past, I have noticed with pleasure several communications upon the profit and loss of farming. These communications show that there is a waking up among the farmers, and that they have increased desires to know whether they are gliding down the smooth, deceitful stream towards bankruptcy and ruin, or slowly trudging along the highway to competence and ease. The farmer ought surely to know whether he is in a prosperous condition or not, and his efforts to gain in riches are worthy of praise, but should the multiplication of dollars in his pocket, or in the bank, be his strongest motive to action? Shall the farm be deserted, and allowed to become a wilderness, simply because the owner cannot have the pleasure of laying his fingers upon as many dollars as he imagines he might do, if engaged in some other business?

Every farmer ought to make a good living, and that he can do this, and something besides, has been proved beyond all doubt. This is more than many mechanics, traders and some professional men can say. Whoever heard of the failure of an honest, intelligent, industrious, economical, energetic farmer, unless by sickness, or unavoidable accidents? That he often does become involved in debt, is not a proof that he is in poor business, for ten to one the fault is in himself.

But without discussing the profits of farming any farther at this time, I propose to show some of the objects which the farmer should have in mind besides the acquisition of wealth.

1. He should strive to make his farm grow better in every respect, so that whoever becomes its owner after him, shall find no cause to curse his predecessor. To enrich a farm, requires much knowledge, experience, and enterprise; and the process is slow; but it is a business which pays, even in the present tense, for the more it is enriched and cultivated in the right way, the more of course it will produce.

2. The farmer, while subduing and cultivating his farm, should make still greater efforts to improve the garden of his mind and heart; and there is no class of laboring men who have so good opportunities as the farmer for self-improvement. He has one book open before him every day—the book of nature. And if his eyes, ears, understanding and heart are ever attentive to its teachings, he will constantly increase in knowledge, wisdom, and goodness. How many guides he can have, if he wishes, to assist him in exploring this vast storehouse of knowledge. Chemistry, botany, geology, natural philosophy, physiology, zoology, ornithology, entomology, pomology, horticulture, and if these are not enough to satisfy his thirst for knowledge, he can take astronomy for a pilot, and, travelling through illimitable regions of space, visit the numberless worlds of light, above, around, and beneath us, and learn something of their laws and character.

It is not expected that a person who is actively engaged in the labors of the farm, can become a proficient in all, or any one of these studies, or sciences, for each of them are sufficient to occupy, and have occupied some of the greatest intellects of earth for a whole life-time, but he can make a little progress, and get a faint idea, at least, of the Creator's works. Every farmer who is worthy of being called such, already possesses some knowledge of all, or nearly all, of these sciences; he cannot successfully cultivate his farm without it, and it is plain that more knowledge would give him greater success, and at the same time enlarge his mind, and perhaps benefit his heart.

There is one science, that of Æsthetics, or the science of the beautiful, which the farmer has the best of opportunities to study, and revel in to his heart's content. The beautiful like the influence of love in human actions, pervades all the works of nature. The touch of beauty's gentle fingers can everywhere be seen, and vain would be the task to tell of all her sweet fancies. She, and her charming sister, melody, make the farmer's home their own; and who will say that their presence is not needed there, or that their influence is unfelt?

3. If the farmer has a family, it should be an object of his life so to rear his children to the stature of men and women that they may be a blessing and an honor to the world. There is no place

better than the farm for children of any age—no matter what path of life they may afterward choose to walk in. The farm is God's nursery, and if the beings whom he places there "to dress it, and to keep it," do their whole duty, it will truly be a paradise upon earth; their children "will be like trees planted by the rivers of waters," and "will arise up and call them blessed."

For a few years past, the writer has had occasion to associate considerably with those who have never lived in the country, whose childhood and youth were spent amid the noise, bustle, and dust of a crowded city, and whose childish sports and gambols were restricted by walls of brick or stone. Upon such I have always looked with pity, as having lost some of the sweetest pleasures and remembrances of life. From personal observation alone, I am confident that the morals of children living in the city, are, in general, far below the moral elevation of those whose homes are surrounded by all that is noble and lovely in nature, instead of the miserable fabrications and imitations of man.

4. While fulfilling the duties already mentioned, the farmer should strive to obey the golden rule, "Love our neighbors as ourselves," and "Do unto others as we would have them do to us." This rule is equally binding upon every human being. The beneficial effects which would follow a strict obedience of this rule have never been felt by man except on a very limited scale. But, without doubt, they would revolutionize the world, and cause the wilderness of men's hearts to "bud and blossom as the rose."

If what I have written convinces any one, and the farmer especially, that there is something worth living for, of more importance than making money, my object in writing this article will be obtained. S. L. WHITE.

Groton, Feb. 20, 1860.

For the New England Farmer.

AN OLD ORCHARD.

MR. EDITOR:—I have recently purchased a farm in North Groton, N. H., and the mowing, tillage, pasture and wood lands are in a good state, but there is a large orchard upon it, which looks as though thunder storms were quite frequent hereabouts, and that lightning was wont to exercise its scathing influences among the branches thereof, and that "sapsuckers" had iron bills, and gathered sap the year round. After a very learned, critical and scientific consideration of the subject, and quite a prolific discussion of the points at issue, I unanimously came to the conclusion, that I would at once lay the axe at the roots, the pruning knife and saw at the branches, and a good sharp scraper to the trunk of every tree in the orchard, albeit it is in the month of February. In perusing the report of the sayings at the Legislative Agricultural Meeting, in the *Farmer*, last week, it appears by the remarks of some of the speakers, especially the Hon. Simon Brown, that about the middle of June is the only proper time to prune fruit trees. Now the probability is, that my trees were never troubled with the pruning knife before, at any season of the year, and the serious question I wish to propose, is, will they live to need the second operation of the same sort? I have always been a devoted worshipper of Pomona, and I do not wish now to destroy these objects of my adoration. B.

North Groton, N. H.

REMARKS.—Mr. Brown replieth, that if thou layest the axe at the root of the trees, thou mayest about as reasonably expect a crop of fruit from them, as thou canst if thou layest the knife and the saw upon their branches in the latter part of *February* and through the month of *March*. Thou must study the nature and growth of the tree—the movements of the sap, its seasons of activity and of rest,—learn how it returns to form wood after being elaborated by the leaves, and then thou wilt probably come to just conclusions as to the particular season when it is best to prune thine orchard. If thou canst not complete the work in June, finish in *October* and *November*, when the leaves have fallen, and the tree is, comparatively, at rest.

For the New England Farmer.

70 YEARS' EXPERIENCE IN FARMING.

MR. EDITOR:—Farming from youth to seventy years of age has not convinced me that it is a losing business. I shall not undertake to solve Mr. Pinkham's questions, since the old rule of practice is superseded by a rule which takes less figures, and herds-grass hay has taken the place of pod and bog-grass.

Such cows as I have kept for the last twenty years, nearly all of which I have raised myself, have consumed by the steelyards an average of 20 pounds good hay per day, when in milk, and 15 lbs. per day when dry. Twenty years ago, and many times since, I weighed for my cows, commencing two months before calving, and continuing four months after, as nearly as my cows came in together; of course, varying some one week to four weeks. Now I think I shall be allowing a full price for hay to call it 80 cents per cwt. in the barn.

20 lbs. per day for 6 months, or 183 days, is 3,660 lbs., at 80 cents	$29,28
Summer, 26 weeks, at 50 cents per week, is	13,00
	$42,28

If you please, add to this 5 pounds grain, at 1½ cts. per pound, and deduct 5 pounds from the hay, the keeping for the year stands $48,69. Now, if I can get $48,69 from my cows per year I shall lose nothing but taxes and interest, and I think I can get even that, so that I can stand it one year more. I will say nothing about calves. They are sold for about 50 cents to $1, at three days old.

Milk, for 6 months after calving, 8 qts. per day, at a yearly average of 3½ cts. per quart, is	$45,75
6 months before calving, 4 qts. per day, is	22,74
	$68,49
Keeping	48,69
Profit	$19,80

If I have a cow that will not do as well as the above, I put her to one peck corn meal per day, and milk her till the butcher wants her.

And now I want to tell you how much I lose in raising my own cows. Within twenty years I have raised seventy-one cows; all but four have been milked and proved. But four of them have failed of making good cows. I have about come to the late Mr. Jaquith's opinion, "that a cow can be raised to order." I choose to have a calf to raise born in November to January. I let them take from the cow 4 quarts milk per day, 8 weeks —56 days.

4 qts. per day is 224 qts., at 3 cts. per qt., is	$6,72
2 lbs. shorts per day, 127 days, at 1½ cts. per lb., is	3,81
1 cwt. hay, at 80 cts.	,80
26 weeks' pasturing, at 10 cts. per week	2,60
This brings up the first year, and for the second year I give 20 cts. per week, 52 weeks, is	$10,40
	$24,33

Now there is no more expense, for the calf is now a cow and will pay her own way, and at 3 or 4 years old will sell for from $40 to $60. I have raised calves without any milk, but I find it best to begin with a good calf, keep it well till it becomes a cow, and then keep well; and I can get what I call good pay for all given calves and cows, and $20 or more than that on each calf, and about that yearly on each cow. If a young man can do as well as an old one, I cannot see why he may not live by farming. OTIS BRIGHAM.

Westborough, Feb. 9, 1860.

For the New England Farmer.

"ONION IN THE HUMAN EAR."

Your correspondent, from "Brooksville," in a recent number, offers some recommendations as to the insertion of the heart of the onion into the ear, as a curative for that painful ailment, the ear ache. He states, that when afflicted, he resorted to this remedy, inserting the onion heart in his ear; and thus it remained, baffling his efforts to withdraw the same, for nearly a twelvemonth; occasioning deafness and great inconvenience, until, amid much suppuration, it at last evolved itself. As a remedial agent, in a process subject to such required duration, and painful contingencies as this, your correspondent could not wish others to adopt it. His meaning, I think, he does not clearly state. Placed in a cotton bag, and laid flat on the ear, the application of onion in pain has been found beneficial. But an insertion of even a portion of the same, or of any article, (save a trifle of some delicate wash, by a proper ear syringe, and even this to be in the hands of a physician,) is ever fraught with the most dangerous consequences. Experimentally I speak on this subject, and would caution all persons against adopting too readily any such hazardous processes. When one fully understands the delicate arrangement of that wonderfully and fearfully constructed organ, the human ear, the slightest invasion of which is oft times "beyond the reach of the healer," he would not hesitate a moment, I think, as to an endurance of a continued aggravated pain, rather than lend himself to the adoption of even a questionable remedy. Far better is it, as I deem it, in most cases of suffering, patiently to bear those ills we have, than fly to others that we know not of.

"Felix quem faciunt, aliena pericula cautum."

February 14, 1860. OAK HILL.

For the New England Farmer.

IMPROVED CHURN DASH.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—When we study into the philosophy of churning cream to make butter, the idea suggests itself at once, that the agitation of the cream is all that is necessary to accomplish the object. Having experimented upon a variety of churns, I finally concluded that the old dash churn would answer my purpose best for churning the cream of a few cows. I went to the cooper and bought a churn with a dash, made round, adapted to the churn, with holes through it, as the fashion was at that period. After using it a few years, dreading churning day as I should any other necessary evil, I had a dash fixed to the handle in the form of a cross, which was a relief, in a degree, of the hard labor required to churn with the round dash. Last fall, as good luck sometimes happens, the cross-dash gave out. I thought as long as there was no particular virtue in the shape of a churn dash, and all that was wanting to make butter come, was something to agitate the cream, I took a narrow piece of white oak plank just wide enough to admit the handle, made a hole with an auger and inserted the handle, which constituted my whole dash. For the relief of the dorsal muscles in elevating the dash, I beveled off the upper surface of the narrow dash to let it slide through the cream more easily. I have used this little simplified dash with decided relief to the operator, not requiring, I should think, more than half the muscular power to perform the operation that the old dashers did.

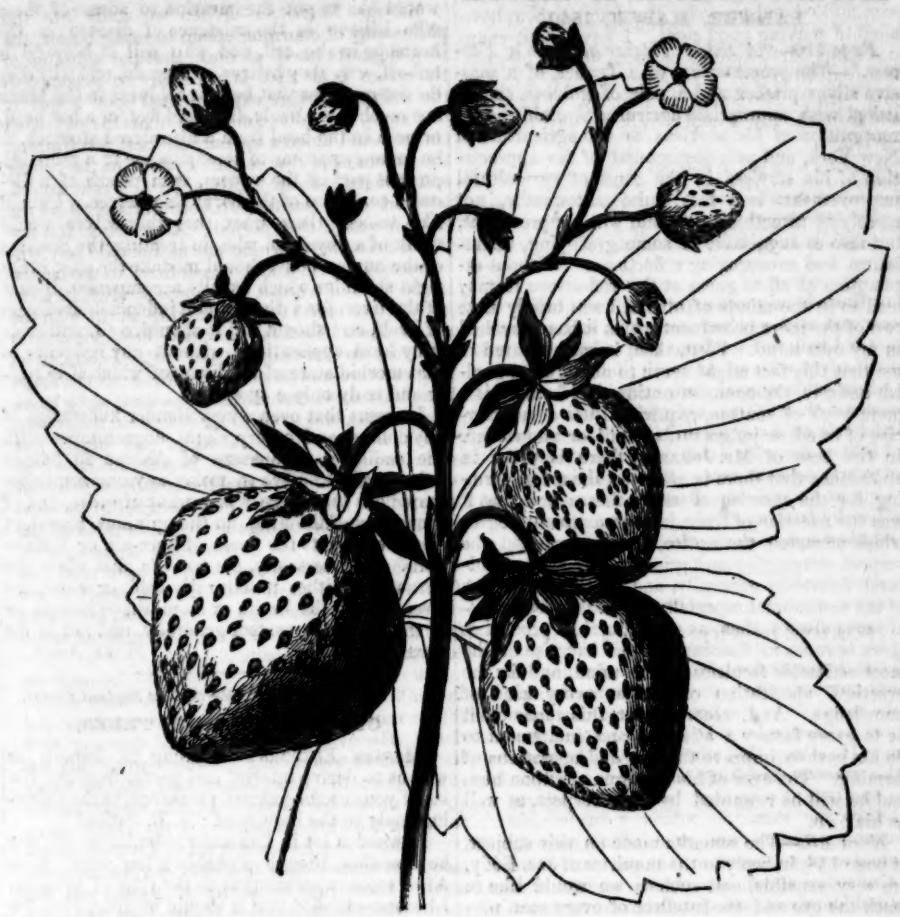
The cream, after being prepared by scalding the milk, has come to butter within from five to fifteen minutes, since we have used the improved dash. The most laborious part of churning with the old dash was raising it, which would lift the churn from the floor, cream and all, at every stroke, unless held down. I make no pretension to being the first in improving the churn dash, but to those who have not tried it, I would recommend the narrow dash as a labor-saving improvement. There may be plenty of churns with the narrow dash in the market, if not, I am surprised to think what stupid creatures we are, not to have thought of such a simple alteration.

North Wilmington, Feb., 1860. S. BROWN.

For the New England Farmer.

COST AND PROFIT.

MR. EDITOR:—I have carefully perused the articles in your paper, headed "*Is farming profitable?*" by Mr. Pinkham, of Chelmsford; also one by Mr. Bailey, of Newbury, Vt., "*Is stock raising profitable?*" and I should like to inquire of those gentlemen, whether about three-quarters of the amount which they put down as the cost of raising corn, cattle, sheep, &c., does not go into their own pockets? That is, supposing they do the ordinary amount of work which a farmer performs. If all his work is charged to the cost of the crops, he certainly should have credit for the same amount as money earned. If it costs a farmer but three dollars per ton to get his hay, and that hay must all be consumed on the place, I think it is hardly fair to charge it at $8 to $10 per ton, in estimating the cost of cattle, unless the farm is credited for the difference as profit. O.



CUTTER'S SEEDLING STRAWBERRY.

The above engraving is a correct outline of this new and beautiful variety of strawberry. It is hardy, remarkably fruitful, and bears much longer than any of the numerous varieties with which it has been grown for the past ten years.

The fruit is very large, measuring four inches in circumference, and often many specimens measured more; light scarlet color, conical, with a neck; hulls easy, a very important fact. It has a remarkably wild or native flavor, fruit stem very tall.

It is a seedling, carried by birds from a cultivated bed. It originated in the grounds of Mr. B. F. CUTTER, of Pelham, N. H., nearly ten years ago. Mr. Cutter's attention was attracted to it by its vigorous habit, and large, even-sized berries. It has not failed in any location to excel in fruitfulness and length of time in bearing.

I have fruited it four years. In 1859 I gathered fruit abundantly, thirty-five days in succession, while on the same soil and treatment (sandy loam and gravel) the Boston Pine, Hovey's Seedling and Jenny Lind only bore twenty to twenty-five days.

The fruit was shown four successive weeks on the tables of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. The Committee of Fruit say: "It is a large berry, of a light color, regular conical shape, and sweet."

In thus bringing this fruit before the public, I am confident all who will make trial of its merits will not be disappointed. Its great hardihood, coming out in spring in locations where all other varieties have been seriously injured, its faculty of fruiting without other varieties to fertilize it, (staminate,) its great length of time in bearing, approaching to ever-bearing, its tall fruit stem, the ease with which it is hulled, large brilliant berries, its wild native flavor and large foliage, must commend it to all. It is very fruitful grown in thick masses, and will doubtless be still more so grown in hills.

J. W. MANNING.

Reading, Mass., 1860.

For the New England Farmer.

THOUGHTS SUGGESTED BY THE N. E. FARMER, MARCH, 1860.

Page 110—"*A Silver Pitcher given to a Farmer.*"—The presentation, to a farmer, of a massive silver pitcher and a pair of goblets, embellished with appropriate agricultural emblems, in recognition of his services to the agriculture of New York, and as a testimonial of the appreciation of his services in the cause of agricultural improvement, is a fact quite noteworthy, not merely as something new and without precedent, but also as suggestive of some gratifying, stimulating, and encouraging reflections. Without attempting at all to guess at the reflections it may lead to in the minds of others, I will briefly note two of the more prominent which it has provoked in my own mind. First, then, it has appeared to me that this fact might serve to abate, or to abolish entirely, the common notion that farming is a mere work of routine, requiring little or no exercise of mind, or judgment, or skill, or knowledge. In the case of Mr. Johnston there is proof in abundance that there is room in the art of farming for the exercise of all of these; and that it was the exercise of these in a pre-eminent degree which attracted the notice, and commanded the respect, admiration and gratitude of the agricultural fraternity generally, and of the presenters of the testimonial especially. Let this testimonial serve always, then, as a memorable proof that there is room in farming for the exercise of the most estimable faculties of the mind, and for the practical application of almost every kind of knowledge. And, secondly, let this testimonial be to every farmer a stimulus and incitement to do his best to improve the art and operations of farming. The eyes of his brethren are upon him, and he will be rewarded by their respect, as well as his own.

Horn Ail.—The remarks made on this subject, at page 118, in reply to the inquiries of Jer. Eddy, are very sensible, and such as we would like to reach the eye and the intellect of every man who owns an animal with horns. Perhaps not every man, but certainly a large majority of those who have the care of neat cattle, entertain just such notions, and favor just such barbarity and absurdity in practice, as the hints and cautions in these "remarks" are leveled against. That is, the majority of farmers seem to believe very readily, when there is anything wrong with a cow or an ox which they cannot understand, and which is accompanied with either unnatural heat or coldness in the horns, that said cow or ox has got horn-ail or hollow horn, and farther, that the best thing to be done is to bore a hole in the horn and pour in turpentine, camphor, or some other material of an irritating quality.

This absurd notion and this barbarous practice need, to say the very least, to be reconsidered. For in these days of boasted light, and knowledge, and intelligence, when boys and girls study physiology, and when all have abundant opportunities to know that cold feet and a hot head are *mere symptoms* of some disordered state of the stomach, or some other remote portion of the body, it is truly marvellous that so many should be found who assent to or believe that coldness or heat in the horns is a disease in and of itself, and not merely a symptom of some disease affecting some one important organ or the system generally. I would like to put the question to some of those who believe in the existence of disease in the horns or in the tail, and who call it horn-ail or tail-ail, why they believe as they do, and why they do not consider that heat or coldness in the horns are much more likely, like cold feet, or a hot head, or pain in the head from a disordered stomach, to be mere symptoms of some disease in a more important part of the system, than proofs of a diseased condition of the horns themselves. I would like to ask them what they themselves would think of a physician who, in treating the diseases of the human body, should mistake the pain in the right shoulder which usually accompanies disease of the liver, for a distinct and independent disease of itself, and should call it shoulder-ail, and treat it by local applications, without any reference to that morbid state of the liver, of which it is really and truly only a symptom.

It seems that even a very slender knowledge of physiology, and a very slight acquaintance with the ordinary phenomena of disease in human beings, might suffice to make any one somewhat suspicious that there was a want of sense, and of soundness of thinking, in the opinions prevalent about what gets the name of horn-ail or hollow-horn. And certainly, *the truth is*, that when the horns are either unnaturally cold or warm, the disease is in the brain, or stomach, or bowels, or lungs, or in the system generally, and not in the horns at all.

MORE ANON.

For the New England Farmer.

ON PRUNING PINE TREES.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Wishing to impart, as well as to derive interest and profit, from the visits of your useful journal, please accept the following reply to the inquiry of "N. B. Safford."

I owned a lot in Lancaster, similar to the one he describes, though probably a few years older. After some experiment as to the time of pruning, I become satisfied that it should be done when the tree would not bleed, if at all. As to thinning, I knew they could not half become trees of adequate size and height for profit. The question with me was, will the wood pay for thinning? Now, if so, I should gain more by the growth of the lot, than to wait longer. Of course, a gain without loss, was a safe business for a young man, who could find no one that could advise in the case, from knowledge. Having settled both questions in my own mind, as to the profit of thinning and trimming, for the benefit of the lot, I determined to go ahead, and with some select active hands, with keen light axes, we improved the autumn and winter, on bare ground, or little snow, in trimming, as high as we could reach, those left at a distance of five or six feet apart, say nine or ten to a square rod. We cut roads wide enough for a sled and pair of horses, and drew the saplings, twelve feet long, buts to the road, each side. We went over twenty acres and cleared the ground. They grew rapidly, and I am able to say, fully justified the measure. The part of the lot we left was subsequently cut over, all at once, ten years after, and was far behind the other, both in growth and beauty.

BENJAMIN WILLARD.

Lancaster, Mass., 1860.

For the New England Farmer.

BEES---PURCHASING STOCKS.

Those who intend purchasing stocks this spring, should be ready to attend to it as soon as possible after the first days warm enough for them to fly. It is a better time to select than before or afterwards. If the first day they fly is really warm, they often issue in great numbers; apparently get confused, and enter the wrong hives; yet at this season seldom quarrel. Some stocks, by this means, get more than belongs to them, while others lack a corresponding number. Occasionally one will lose its queen during winter, and the bees will generally desert, joining some other stock on the first pleasant day. It is best to let these things get regulated. On the other hand, if put off too long, until the bees have been out several times and marked their locality, it is an injury to move them, especially short distances. The idea that a bee knows its own home by instinct, or is attracted to it, as the steel to the magnet, and can readily find it, however much it may be moved about the yard, after its locality is once properly identified, is erroneous; yet, if the removal is beyond their knowledge of country, the injury will be much less. Consequently this must be the best time to purchase.

I have seen bees enough purchased by those too eager to try their luck, to be pretty well satisfied that *all* buyers are not good judges of the article—they seem to misunderstand the requisites of a good stock of bees, supposing that more depends on luck than any thing else; that if they get a stock either good or bad, and set it up, and if it does not prosper, "why bees will do nothing for them." When this has been the case, I would advise another effort, and suggest that they use a little care in making a selection of the first stocks and try the efficacy of a little proper management.

In making a selection at this season, do not be anxious to get stocks that are very heavy. Some few pounds of honey are sufficient to take them through the spring. If too much honey is present, there will be but little room to rear brood; it also indicates that the colony is small, and have consumed but little through the winter. The amount of honey can generally be determined pretty nearly by lifting; the number of bees, by actual inspection—not after they have been aroused, and all in commotion by an accidental jar, but by raising the hive so carefully that they know nothing about it, until the light is admitted directly between the combs till the cluster of bees is all seen. It may on some occasions be necessary to turn the hive over bottom up. The bees of a strong colony will extend through eight or ten combs; if less than four or five, it would hardly be suitable for a beginner at any price. While examining the size of the colony, it would be well to see if there are any mouldy combs, and if any clusters of dead bees are in any part of the hive. A small amount of either will not be a serious detriment, if all else is right, as it is readily removed. Also, if the hive should be an old one, there can be no better time to see if the brood in the comb is free from disease. These examinations are important, and if they cannot be made without disturbing the bees, they may be quieted sufficiently for a partial inspection with tobacco smoke. If a pipe or cigar is used, it will do well enough; if not, a very good substitute is made by covering cotton cloth eight or ten inches square, with common smoking tobacco one-fourth inch thick, and rolling it up loosely, and fastening with needle and thread, igniting and blowing the smoke among the bees, until they allow an inspection.

Young stocks, and swarms of last season, when they are to be had, are preferable for several reasons, but those two or three years old are not to be rejected, and if healthy, will be just as good for a year or two.

The size is also important. For sections north of 40 degrees, 2000 cubic inches inside is a good standard; yet those two or three hundred inches larger or smaller, ought not to be refused on that account, as swarms can be put into hives the proper size. Very large hives are often cut off to the proper size, but as a beginner would not be likely to undertake it, it is unnecessary to describe the process,

To prepare them for transportation, spread down a sheet, and set the hive on it, then bring up the corners, and tie over the top, or invert the hive, and put over the bottom a piece of muslin eighteen inches square, fastened at the corners with carpet tacks. A wagon with elliptic springs is best for conveying them. In all cases the common box hive should be bottom up to avoid breaking combs. When moved late in the season, they should be set several feet apart. Indeed, they should not be closer together than two or three feet, at any time. A bee-house is objectionable on that account—hives are apt to be crowded. If any alterations are to be made about the yard, the sooner it is done the better. M. QUINBY.

St. Johnsville, N. Y., 1860.

For the New England Farmer.

HOW TO MAKE FARMING PROFITABLE.

MR. EDITOR:—There has been a great deal said lately in the *Farmer* and elsewhere, about the unprofitableness of farming. Perhaps you are of opinion that enough has been already written upon the subject; but I should like to say a few words, leaving you to decide whether my speech shall be a public, or a private one.

What is the reason that we find in farming so poor a remuneration for our labor? Is it not, mainly, that we sell off so great a proportion of our crops? It would seem in many cases that farmers believe it the best way to sell all their hay that is fit for the market, and all their oats and corn that can possibly be spared. But, in the long run, is this the most profitable course to pursue? Should not something be kept back and returned to the soil? I was gratified by the stand taken in our Farmers' Club, at a late meeting, by a practical and shrewd, as well as intelligent member. He said, if he could, by feeding to his stock any particular crop, whether hay, mangold wurtzels, carrots, turnips, or grain, obtain a return in milk or meat to the amount of eighty per cent. of the cash value of such crop, he would consider it more economical to so feed it on his farm, than to carry it off to market. This is, it seems to me, sound and safe doctrine. For by thus allowing one-fifth of the produce of the farm as a fund for its fertilization, the fertility of the soil is not only sustained, but increased; and consequently, fu-

ture crops are grown with less cost and greater profit. And herein is the dividend paid by investments in the compost heap. They pay compound interest. The more manure, the better crops; and the greater the crop, the larger may be the compost heap. I doubt whether any fertilizer, of equal permanent value, can be bought at less cost than one-fifth of such crops as hay, grain, turnips, carrots, at our distance from the market. In towns nearer Boston, or other markets, it probably pays better to sell most of the crop, and buy stable manure in the city. This answers the same purpose, as it maintains the fertile condition of the soil, and I do not believe any soil can be permanently cropped, with profit, without liberal returns to it in the form of animal manures. M. P.

Concord, Mass., Feb. 29, 1860.

THE GARDEN.

During the latter part of February the snow pretty much disappeared from this section, and the first week of the present month was so warm and pleasant as to remind us of the approach of spring, with its important labors, duties and enjoyments—indeed, we saw one or two plows in motion, though not perhaps actually "afield," as those we noticed were engaged upon the warm banks of a wet meadow, preparatory to some permanent improvement.

But how cheerless would spring be without the voice of birds! We returned from a stroll in our garden, one of those pleasant mornings, with a few notes of some of our earliest songsters in our ears, and seated ourselves at a pile of exchange papers. Turning over the pages of the last number of the Philadelphia *Farmer and Gardener*, our eyes fell on the large letters which headed a communication—"Spare the Birds." The writer states that when he was a school-boy in the lower part of Delaware County, the opening spring was announced by a multitudinous variety of warblers; the mocking-bird, cat-bird and robin; the peewit, wren, and bluebird; the thrush, bobolink, and oriole; the woodpecker, flicker, and bluejay; the lark, kildee, blackbird, and many others. About thirty years after these school-days, he was induced to undertake farming in the same vicinity. He was surprised to miss almost entirely his pleasant birds. During the eight years that he remained upon the farm in this place, he says, "I do not remember to have seen more than one red-headed woodpecker, a couple of bluejays, and a few robins, and they migrating. A few cat-birds and hedge-sparrows or chippies, were all that remained. One robin made its nest in the early spring, and then departed, as also one fieldfare and one peewit; these were all I observed. In the meantime, all the orchards, every one that my boyhood had known and courted, were cleared away, because, as the owners said, worms had attacked and destroyed the trees." The cause of this eradication of the birds, he ascribes to the prejudice of farmers against the birds for their fondness for cherries, and to the increase of sporting habits among the young men in the vicinity. In his school-days, there were but three guns in the whole township; as a farmer, he found that an adjoining meighbor, a school-mate, had five "crack" double-barrel guns—one each for himself and four sons—and gloried in their use, by which nothing but chickens, ducks and geese were spared.

But this story of desolation, which we have made as short as possible, has kept us some time from the garden; and if we might not hope to meet these our feathered co-laborers there in due season, we should have little heart ever to return. But what is a garden? The books inform us that Ornamental Gardening is one of the fine arts—based on the love of the beautiful—and is ranked with painting, sculpture, architecture, &c., and that the idea of profit is as foreign to gardening, as a "coach-and-six," or any other luxury. But this is clearly not descriptive of a New England farmer's garden,—it smacks of princes, nobles and artists.

In one of our exchanges we find the report of a description of a garden which was given by a speaker on some public occasion, which we hope will be recognized as true to the life by few of our readers. "The garden, sir," said the speaker, "is a place back of the house where dish-water is thrown; where we have a few hills of potatoes and several hundred—pigweeds."

The garden, then, is what each one makes it, or allows it to become. It may be an expensive plaything; a repulsive and tangled thicket of weeds and brambles; or a little miniature farm, with its model fields of crisp and tender vegetables, rich fruits and pleasant flowers.

It is now time for every farmer, and for every mechanic who occupies a few square feet of soil, to be thinking what his garden shall be this year.

Asparagus and *rhubarb*, if not manured last fall, should have an immediate application, to be leached into the soil by the spring rains.

Grape vines and *strawberry plants* that were covered over last fall should be taken up and uncovered quite early, or the vines will be liable to injury. An early sprinkling of guano on strawberries is recommended by some.

Peas stand frost bravely, and may be planted early. By filling a trench six to eight inches deep, half or one-third full with horse manure, then filling up with sufficient to prevent over-heating, peas may be advanced a week or two. Plant in double rows a few inches apart, to save brush.

Onions may be sown very early. But there is little gained in hurrying most seeds into the soil before the ground is warmed by the sun. Very

much, however, is gained by preparing the ground, and having everything made ready.

Hot beds are got up so cheaply, and may be constructed so simply, that none should entirely neglect this means of hurrying forward a few cucumbers, radishes, lettuces, cabbages, tomatoes, peppers, &c., &c.

In the monthly *Farmer* for January, (p. 13,) we published from Liebig's *Modern Agriculture*, an account of "John Chinaman as an agriculturist." John, by his management, has kept the fertility of his soil unimpaired from the time the pyramids were planted. It seems, by that account that he prepares a special manure for seeds, and that he also soaks and sprouts his seeds in weak liquid manure, which promotes the growth and development of the plant, and protects it from insects. May it not be well for American gardeners to try some of these time-honored practices of the Chinese?

Where our gardens are well manured, early crops may often be followed by later ones. By some the ground intended for melons is sown with early peas in rows six feet apart, which will leave space for a row of melon hills, in which the plants are started before the peas are removed; winter cabbages are raised after early potatoes. In fact, a small garden will afford room for large calculations, use for odd moments, and nuts for the mind as well as teeth.

For the New England Farmer.

CARROT JUICE IN BUTTER.

MR. EDITOR:—In the last *Farmer*, Mr. Everett states that carrot juice put into butter is an improvement, in proof of which he cites the long time it has been practiced, by nearly all the butter-makers of the Bay State. It reminds me of the woman in New York city whose milkman, wishing to be honest, carried her good milk, but the woman denounced it, saying she did not like the dirty yellow scum on it, but preferred the sky-blue article. Now if carrot juice really improves the quality of butter, I am surprised, as well as the South Danvers correspondent. I thought the coloring of butter merely a deception, practiced by those who were preparing the article for the market, the same as stuffing the soles of shoes with wood, galvanizing brass and passing it off for gold, and thousands of other vile deceptions to gull the unsophisticated. But when such a practice is published for an improvement, it is time for us to pause and consider. If there is any improvement in butter by the use of carrot juice, let it be given to the cows. I contend that cows fed on corn meal will color butter sufficiently through the winter, and increase the quantity and quality. I hope some of the farmers of the old Bay State will try it, and give us the result.

Derry, Feb., 1860. DAIRYWOMAN.

REMARKS.—We are happy to inform our lady correspondent, that we heard one of the best butter-merchants in Boston, and a man of the strictest integrity, too, advise a farmer to use a *little* carrot juice in the winter-made butter, as it not only improved the color, but the quality of the butter. The danger is in using too much. "Our folks" make butter through the winter, and although we feed good English hay, beets, mangolds and corn meal, it is difficult to produce the high color in butter which the market demands.

For the New England Farmer.

INGRAFTING.

MR. EDITOR:—Notwithstanding the best time for cutting scions for ingrafting the present year has past, I think they may be cut the present month with safety. I cut my scions in the month of February, label them, and make a little hollow in the ground the backside of an underground room, or cellar opening to the south, put them in and cover with a coating of oat straw, well dampened. In this way I have had them keep fifteen months in a perfect condition, and ingrafting them at the age above named, have had them grow well. The second spring I have had them plump as when first cut. Nature, in her effort to sustain life, had thrust out a pulp, or bunch on the end cut off, to a considerable size, while the buds have been greatly enlarged. Swamp moss is quite good to keep them. I make my ingrafting wax of tallow, (grass fed best,) one part, beeswax two, and rosin four. For nurseries, make harder. After melting it, I turn it into water, or add water to the composition, and when cold, cut it into pieces, and draw it as wax for shoemaking, until it is quite tough. In using, keep it in warm water, and use tallow on the hands. In fitting my scions I have but two or three buds on them. In making the tenon, I am careful to get a good fit, not quite to an edge on the end, if so, the bark will be more apt to start on the end of the scion, and thus make an imperfect spot. Make the tenon a good length. I observe in setting, to have the inner bark of the scion a little out from the inside bark of the stump. Many scions are lost where there is not a good fit, while nature is making an effort to unite them.

After the scion is inserted, it is in a fixed position, and the stock is continually enlarging, while the mucus or chyle of the wood is forming a union. Hence the necessity of having the scion stand out enough to take the sap when ready to pass. Since I have adopted this method, I have had far less failures, and the union has been more natural, and of course the growth more rapid.

In one instance, I ingrafted a scion into a stock near the ground, with the finishing bud left on, (though I do not approve of it,) which produced the first year a growth of thirty feet; as estimated by two or three individuals. It grew to the height of about six feet. In a number of instances, I have had ripe fruit the first year ingrafted.

I prefer to set two scions where the stump is large enough to admit of it. I think if they both live, the growth is more rapid, and less liable to the evils that often follow. In such cases, I generally cut out one graft, before they crowd each other. When that is done, it should be with the

slant inclining downwards, remembering to spread some grafting salve on the wound so inflicted. I shall beg leave to differ, perhaps, from some of your correspondents as to the time of cutting scions, and ingrafting. We may agree that the best time is, when the bark adheres most closely to the wood, but at what *time* that takes place we may differ upon. I contend that while the moon is new, or first quarter, the bark slips more readily. I have often heard the remark made by those that make a business of pealing bark. I do not contend that the moon affects the bark, or sap of a tree, but that the sap circulates more freely about that time, hence the propriety of performing all the surgical operations on fruit trees "in the old moon." C. A.

New Haven, Ct., 1860.

EXTRACTS AND REPLIES.

SOIL FOR AND CULTURE OF CARROTS.

I wish to inquire what soil is best adapted to raising carrots, and how it should be prepared? What the time and manner of sowing, the best kind, and how much seed to the acre, and whether a top-dressing of any kind would be beneficial?

Bath, N. H., 1860. G. H.

REMARKS.—Land suitable for Indian corn will produce carrots—that is a granite, or sandy loam, and they will do well on a clay loam if it is underdrained. But land for carrots, as for corn, requires high manuring. It should be plowed a foot deep, and plowed two or three times, pulverized so as to be light and fine, cleared of all turfs and stones, and the seed sowed in drills about eighteen inches apart as early in May as the ground is sufficiently dry and warm. A top-dressing of fine manure would be good, though a heavy dressing of green manure *plowed under in the fall* would be better. The orange carrot is generally raised, but the white will yield a larger crop. About four pounds of seed are required for an acre, though half that quantity would be ample if all the seed could be properly distributed. There is no mystery or difficulty whatever in raising a carrot crop. Make the soil deep, light and rich, and allow no weeds among the plants, and you will get a crop.

—

GREEN CROPS AS MANURE.

What is the best green crop with which to renovate an old pasture?

How much seed should be used to the acre for this purpose?

What can Hungarian millet be procured for a bushel, and how much should be used upon an acre? E. HINCKLEY.

Hyannis, March, 1860.

REMARKS.—Clover is generally esteemed the best plant to use as a green crop to fertilize exhausted lands. Under favorable circumstances it fills the soil so full of roots that an experiment made by a friend showed that after cutting a heavy crop from the surface, there were some seventy tons of roots left in the ground! Clover should not be plowed under in a *green* state, because fermentation very soon ensues, throwing off the sugar and starch which the clover contains, and leaving little but the coarse and comparatively innutritious fibre. Cut it, and, when it has wilted a day, plow it under; the process of decomposition is then slow, and nothing is lost.

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CULTIVATION OF THE CRANBERRY.

I have a piece of land containing about one-fifth of an acre, which I consider very well adapted to the cultivation of cranberries. It is now covered with coarse grass and cranberry vines; it is bounded on two sides by a brook, which would be serviceable for flowing. Will you please inform me through your columns the best course to pursue to bring it into the cultivation of cranberry vines, and also the time of the year in which to commence operations. WALTER RICKETSON.

New Bedford, 1860.

REMARKS.—See "Eastwood on the Cranberry," for full directions.

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TO KILL VERMIN ON CATTLE OR FOWLS.

To kill vermin on cattle and fowls, take common lamp oil, and rub it in well back of the ears and all down the back; do this once a week, and no vermin will trouble you. It is safe. Tobacco will kill lice, but should be used cautiously. Rub lamp oil on the back of the head, and under the wings, and over the posteriors of any fowl once a month, and it will clear out all lice. A READER.

Billerica, March, 1860.

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MUCK AND ASHES.

Some of our farmers are trying the experiment of mixing muck and unleached ashes together for a fertilizer. Ashes cost here 25 cts. per bushel. Potash may be obtained by the barrel for about 6½ cts. per lb. Would potash answer the purpose of ashes at less expense? INQUIRER.

REMARKS.—We have known potash dissolved and sprinkled upon old and well pulverized muck, and used as a fertilizer with good effect. Sometimes damaged potash may be purchased for three or four cents a pound—but at the common prices by the cask, we have no doubt it would be cheaper than ashes at 25 cents a bushel, unless the ashes furnish something beside the potash they contain.

—

POTATOES.

Mr. A. F. BICKFORD, Danville, N. H., writing us about raising potatoes, says he uses the root end of the largest potatoes he has, only four eyes in a hill, and uniformly gets good crops; uses no manure but leaves and muck sprinkled with ashes.

In raising onions, he sows ashes upon them as soon as they are up, and as they grow, scatters pulverized hen manure over them in wet weather. In dry weather he soaks the hen manure and sprinkles the onions with the solution once in each week.

SURFACE MANURING.

Much has been said of late of "surface manuring." I do not fully understand the meaning of the term; or perhaps I had better say, I do not understand the exact method of applying manure in that manner. I suppose it means something different from the "top-dressing" of grass lands, but exactly what I do not know. Will you explain?

QUERIST.

REMARKS.—What is the *best way to apply manure*, is a question upon which there is much difference of opinion, and in the discussions which take place upon it, the words "surface manuring" quite often occur. We suppose the terms are not confined to what is generally understood by "top-dressing," but whether manure should be kept *near the surface*, or plowed under from three to ten inches. The opinion is gaining ground among many good farmers, that more benefit is derived from manure kept within *four* inches of the surface, than when it is covered deeper.

—

SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION IN HAY—VEGETABLES.

I noticed a communication in the *Farmer* from "Omega," of Roxbury, and "Mr. G. Whitney," of Vermont, on "Spontaneous Combustion in Hay." Some years ago, when in St. Johns, N. B., I remember an instance of hay becoming so heated as to ignite the timbers and burn to the depth of three-fourths of an inch; by removing the hay and remaking, it kept perfectly.

Permit me to suggest the use of a corner in your paper for the assistance of novices in gardening; although Mr. Bridgman's book is intended for that purpose, it is not adapted to our climate; by stating the time when to plant, and when to transplant, the different kinds of vegetables, you will contribute useful information to many of your

SUBSCRIBERS.

REMARKS.—Will you "fill a corner" with this information yourself?

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GUANO FOR RYE—RYE WITH BUCKWHEAT.

Will you permit me to inquire whether Peruvian, or in fact any other guano, can be profitably used as a top-dressing for rye? If so, will you give the best mode and time of application, and the amount needed on a light gravelly loam which will best ensure success?

Also, whether rye can be sown at the same time and with buckwheat, with a reasonable prospect of a good crop the next season? M.

Wilbraham, March, 1860.

REMARKS.—Guano, at the rate of 250 or 300 pounds per acre, sown as soon as the ground is thawed to the depth of four inches, or as soon after as is convenient, will usually bring more than paying results. Try a portion of the field with American Guano, as it is called. It is pulverized ready for use, and can be purchased for $40 per ton.

We have never known rye sowed at the time of sowing buckwheat, and are inclined to think it would make too rank a growth the first season.

RINGWORM OR TETTERS IN CATTLE.

Eight weeks since, one of my yearling heifers was attacked with ringworm or tetters around the eyelids. The eruption has continued to spread in circular form to the diameter of six inches. The pustules now begin to form about the roots of the horns, and also about the muzzle.

My whole stock of thirteen head of from one to three years old are infected now with the same disorder, in its first stages. Can this disease be subdued or cured, or must it be left to run its own time? An early notice will be duly appreciated.

CHARLES S. WELD.

Damon, Me., Feb. 27, 1860.

REMARKS.—We have had no experience with this disease, and find nothing of it in the books under the term "ringworm" or "tetter." We hope some one having facts will reply.

—

USE OF GUANO.

Will the editor of the *Farmer*, or some one who has had experience in using guano, inform me whether it is profitable or not? If so, in what way should it be applied, and the quantity to the acre? J. G. G.

Shelburne Falls, Mass., March, 1860.

REMARKS.—Guano is profitable when used under favorable circumstances, and when it is purchased at a fair price. We doubt whether our common farmers can make it profitable at $60 a ton. From 50 to 500 pounds are used to the acre, sometimes broadcast, and at others composted with muck or loam. Do not use it until you can have a better knowledge of the condition under which to employ it, than we can impart in these brief lines.

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TWO LARGE HOGS.

Mr. JOHN BATES, of Danversport, has two very large pigs, two years old next month. The girth of the largest is 6 feet 7 inches; length from tip of nose to extremity of body, 7 feet 11 inches. The girth of the other is 6 feet 6 inches, length 7 feet 11 inches. They are small limbed, and perfect patterns of good hogs, and seem to be as thrifty now as at any former time. Good judges estimate that they will weigh, when dressed, 750 lbs. each!

Danversport, Feb., 1860. B. D. WILCOX.

—

ORCHARD GRASS SEED.

Having seen the orchard grass highly recommended for hay and pastures, I should like to inquire where the seed is to be had, at what price, and if it will do to sow it with harrowing it in on land that was sown with rye last fall, and if so, at what time in the spring should it be sown?

Palmer, Mass., 1860. A. B. D.

—

HAY-CUTTER AND PUMP.

Please inform me what is the best hay-cutter now in use, taking into account the cost, ease of operation, and durability, for all kinds of fodder.

Also, the best pump for farm use for a well 40 feet deep. ALBERT EMERSON.

Haverhill, Mass., 1860.

CHICCORY, OR SUCCORY.

FIG. 1. FIG. 2.

The chiccory, or succory plant, is quite common in the eastern part of Massachusetts, and for aught we know, all over New England, and yet but few people know its name or uses when they see it. It is a stout, branching plant, when full-grown, standing two to three feet in height, has beautiful sinuate leaves and bright blue flowers, and a sort of flaunting, care-for-nothing air, which makes it quite attractive. It loves warm, rich spots, and in such places will throw its tap-root so deep and strong into the ground, that more than the strength of a single man is required to pull it out.

It has been extensively grown in Belgium, Holland and Germany, and as a cultivated variety was brought into notice by the late Arthur Young, as a forage plant. The root is white, fleshy, and yields a milky juice. This is dried, roasted, and used as coffee, and is now allowed by the excise in England to be mixed and sold with coffee. The reader has quite likely often used it at his own table, when he supposed his cup was filled with a decoction of the pure Java or Mocha! The English *Quarterly Journal of Agriculture* says: — "No plant cultivated in this country will bring the cow-feeder nearly an equal return with the chiccory."

We know the plant well, however, and advise every farmer who finds it growing on his premises, to eradicate it as fast as possible. If it yields a large quantity, the *quality* is bad, for the plant is a coarse, rank grower, takes possession of the whole land, and the forage is bitter and unpalatable, and will give the milk of cows an unpleasant taste. The succory is gaining ground in this region, and needs careful looking after. A species of it called *Endive*, or *Garden Succory* is extensively cultivated among us an early salad.

When the root of chiccory is to be used as coffee, it should be cleaned and put into the oven after the bread has been taken out, and allowed to remain until cold. Continue that process until the root is sufficiently brittle to be ground, and then mix a fourth or more with coffee.

The root is also used medicinally for chronic affections of the stomach, connected with torpid liver. Figure 1 represents the whole plant, and in bloom. Figure 2 is a separate head of the flower.

HAY REQUIRED PER HEAD.

I perceive it was stated at a late meeting of Legislative farmers, by one gentleman, that he used ten pounds of hay, per head, with oil-cake, roots, &c., for each animal. I am informed by another gentleman that the quantity of hay mentioned is not more than half as much as should be given.

For myself, I do not know, as I never weighed the food for stock, but I am inclined to believe the practical man is nearest right. Much will depend upon the quality of the hay; if it is badly cured and worse housed by heedless laborers, perhaps ten pounds is as much as the animal can be induced to swallow. But if properly cured, I am confident that twenty-five pounds per day will not be more than is necessary for a cow that is relied on for milk, or in other words, that it will take a ton and a half of hay to carry a cow through from November 1 to April 1. What say you to this? J. W. P.

South Danvers, March, 1860.

KING PHILIP CORN.—We are not able to inform "G. W.," South Kingston, N. H., where he can obtain the genuine King Philip, if not at the seed stores.

DISEASE AMONG HORSES.—A fatal disease, called by veterinary surgeons "paralysis of the throat," is raging among the horses in one of the most extensive stables in Brooklyn, N. Y. So far, eight have died, and several more are affected, and expected to die, as no remedy, or even stay to the disease has yet been discovered. The first symptoms are an inability to drink, and entire incapacity of the throat to perform its natural functions.

For the New England Farmer.

A WAIF FROM KANSAS.

Prairie Lands—Western Life—Steamboats—Prospects, and Corn-Dodgers.

As the ceaseless flow of the ocean, as the tide of emigration has been, and still continues westward, civilization walks closely after the footprints of stupid, indolent barbarism, and scatters in her march intelligence, refinement and wealth. I could not help noticing the fact, as business called me out into the territory a few days ago, and I remarked the improvement and comfort following the wake of emigration. Many comfortable cabins and pleasant adorning cottages are being erected upon the soil but lately occupied by the rude hut of the red man. Thousands of acres of rich prairie land are being surrounded by rail fences, all "saddled and bridled" to protect the crops from the cattle which are allowed to run over this great pasture. Steamboats laden with wealthy freight and noble humanity, are plowing the waters, where a few years ago the lone Indian dared hardly venture with his bark-canoe or "dug-out," lest it should be snagged, or wrecked upon a sand-bar, which obstructions are very prevalent in many of these western rivers. But the readers of your monthly, who have always had fine farms, and nestled beside comfortable, loving firesides, reaped the benefit of good books and intellectual society; enjoyed the privileges of lectures, concerts, and those amusements which only a refined society can countenance, can never realize, mentally, the heroic self-denial of a western emigrant, or the discomforts and hardships of a pioneer life. Where there is but little social good existing in the woods and upon the prairies of the western world, unless the pioneer possesses great moral strength and high self-respect, he is soon prevailed upon to take up with the social evils existing, conspicuous among which are whiskeyology and theology, the former leading to gambling, fighting, and every species of debauchery, and the latter to a low, grovelling, narrow-minded sectarianism.

Winter has "broken his back-bone," and we are glad. A few days ago, a dazzling robe of white was thrown over the bosom of mother earth, but the relentless sun is wearing it off again. The prairie grass is deftly shaking off the weight which bears it down. The river is breaking from the icy arms of winter, and rushing onward to the embrace of its mother ocean. Only among the forest aisles does it seem the most desolate, where the trees throw their naked arms up against the sky, and creak a mournful dirge for their green robes, and the warblers that hid and sung among their branches.

Suffering has been great this hard winter, especially among the poorer classes. Kansas has not been free from the closeness of suffering's gripe, but we make the best of it, and if we get corn-dodgers and pork enough to satisfy the cravings of nature, we feel contented, and are waiting patiently for the opening of navigation and the rush of eager aspirants for wealth, towards the golden bait existing at the Rocky Mountains. Of course, as they will start from the river, most of them will get their outfits at the river towns, so that many will reap the greatest harvest at the beginning of the journey.

But those persons in Kansas, who have experienced the most hardship this winter, are mostly those who have laziness existing in their bones, and rather than work, will prowl around their neighbors' houses to steal. Why, not far from here, I know a man so lazy—and he has a claim, too—that when he gets hungry, he will steal one ear of corn, and grind the corn between two stones, to get sufficient meal for his wife to make a corn-dodger with, then they eat it and are happy. Certainly, they do not "live to eat," but only "eat to live," and they have great faith in the promises conveyed in the sixth chapter of Matthew.

Doubtless, some of the notable housewives of the east would like to know how to manufacture a "corn-dodger." Take any quantity of unsifted meal, and stir it thick with cold water. Put nothing else in. Draw out upon the hearth some hot ashes, make a hole in the middle, and pour the wet meal into it, and flatten it down to an inch in thickness. Cover it over with hot ashes and coals, and let it bake. The ashes keep the sweetness of the meal from evaporating. Now that is what I call a simple and easy way of making a cake, and it is excellent another way. It makes first-rate brick-bats, not easily broken. Try it, ladies, and always keep one in your pocket to defend yourselves both from the assaults of hunger and of man.

But come along, gentlemen, and bring your implements of industry. We want you, and "Uncle Sam is rich enough to give us all a farm," when the homestead bill is passed, and if it don't, we'll buy a farm.

"We'll sweep the prairies, as of old
Our fathers swept the sea,
And make the West, as they the East,
The homestead of the free!"

Kansas is the geographical centre of the United States, and out at Fort Riley is the exact centre, and there several thousand acres of land are laid off for the possession of the United States. The river will always be a public thoroughfare, and river property always valuable. When these stringent times get loosened and men can hold up their heads again, when Kansas revives entirely from the severe struggle for freedom, and this prostrating financial crisis, then the money will fly, fortunes will be quickly made, and down-east visages and sober, undecided gaits will be "no-whar, I reckon."

SUSIE VOGL.

Sumner, K. T., 1860.

MINERAL MATTER ESSENTIAL TO THE GROWTH OF ANIMALS AS WELL AS PLANTS.—Liebig, in his "Letters on Modern Agriculture," says, "Were it possible for a plant to grow, flower and bear seed without the co-operation of mineral matters, it would be utterly valueless to man and animals. A dog will die of hunger in the presence of a dish full of raw or boiled white and yolk of eggs, in which is wanting one of the substances most important for the formation of blood. The first trial teaches him that such food is as inefficient as a stone, for the purposes of nutrition.

GILLYFLOWER SCIONS.—We cannot inform "Inquirer" where he can obtain the scions he inquires for.

For the New England Farmer.

EXPERIMENTS---A NEW MOVEMENT.

MR. EDITOR:—The following subjects for experiment were recently given out in the Concord Farmers' Club. The results will be reported the next winter.

To J. B. FARMER—Winter and spring barley to be sowed on the same kind of land, and the crops compared. Mr. F. sowed a piece of ground with winter barley last fall. To the same—Fowl meadow in comparison with red-top and herds-grass.

To WILLIS BEAN—Plow the whole field ten inches. On one portion spread the manure on the sod, and plow under. On another portion cover the manure five inches. On another portion three inches; and note the result on hoed crops and on the grain and grass following.

To JOSEPH D. BROWN--Seeding to grass with rye, oats, wheat and barley.

To MINOT PRATT—Soiling cows during the months of June, July, August and September. To keep an exact account of cost in extra labor, &c.

To N. H. WARREN—Liquid manure as compared with compost for corn.

To J. W. BROWN—Cooking Indian and oil meal for milch cows in comparison with the same used raw.

To A. H. WHEELER—The culture of roots, with the rows at different distances.

To E. WOOD, Jr.—Improving pasture land by the use of various fertilizers.

To HIRAM JONES—Cultivating squash and other vines by the use of different manures.

To WILLIS BEAN—Warm and cold drink for cows, alternating several times, two weeks at a time.

To HIRAM JONES and JOHN BROWN, 2d—Poultry—the best feed to produce eggs.

To JAMES P. BROWN and DANIEL TARBELL—Top-dressing with mud, impregnated with sulphur, to be applied in different quantities.

To MINOT PRATT—Corn and potatoes in alternate rows, and carrots and beets in do.

To SIMON BROWN—Cranberries on high land.

To CHARLES A. HUBBARD and CYRUS JARVIS—Top-dressing grass land in autumn with green manure and with fine compost of equal value; and top-dressing and seeding as a means of improving and preserving the qualities of grass on low land without plowing.

To E. W. BULL—Special manures—their effects upon vegetation and comparative value.

To F. E. BIGELOW—Barn manures for cultivating trees in grass land.

Other experiments were suggested, among which were the comparative productiveness of different varieties of corn—Fallow tillage as a means of improving the soil, &c.

I send you this list as a suggestion to other clubs, and to farmers who do not belong to any clubs, to try these or other experiments, and carefully note the results.

Yours truly, J. REYNOLDS, *Secretary.*

TALL GRASSES.—Mr. THOMAS GORDON, of Biddeford, Me., handed us some grasses the other day of a most extraordinary character, consisting of fowl meadow, herds-grass and blue-joint. The fowl meadow was *seven* feet high, the blue-joint *six* feet *nine* inches, and the herds-grass *six* feet and *six* inches. These grasses grew upon his farm at Biddeford, and are the natural product of his low lands, such a product as might be harvested on thousands of acres in this State, if unjust and odious monopolies did not permit mill-owners to drown and starve out large tracts of the best lands we have.

Mr. Gordon states that he has plowed and seeded swale land with the fowl meadow grass, and that it thrives well upon it. He frequently gets *six* tons of well made hay to the acre—hay that is worth three-fourths as much as the best English grass. He gathers the fowl-meadow seed by hand, stripping it from the heads into a broad open vessel. The fowl meadow and blue-joint have broad leaves, and their stems, though large, are not so wiry and hard as those of the herds-grass.

For the New England Farmer.

DAIRY PROFITS.

MR. EDITOR:—I give you an account of my dairy the past year. April 1st, 1859, I owned one cow, 5 years old, worth $40; bought a heifer 2 years old, for $27. Account stands as follows:

	Dr.
To interest on capital	$4,02
To pasture for season, at $5 each	10,00
To wintering 2 cows, at $18 each	36,00
To pumpkins, &c., in fall	2,00
To 12 bushels carrots in winter	2,00
To pasture for 2 calves	2,50
To 1 cwt. oil meal	2,00
	$58,52
	Cr.
By 320 pounds butter, at 19 cts	$60,80
By increased value of heifer	10,00
By 2 calves last fall	16,00
	$86,80

Beside this, we used all the milk we wanted in a family of four, which, with the milk for the pigs, I think well paid for making the butter. I shall keep 4 cows the coming season, and you shall have the figures at the end of the year.

I wish to inquire which is the best way of feeding corn and other grains to hens, whether whole, ground, or ground and boiled?

GREEN MOUNTAIN BOY.

Cummington, Mass., 1860.

For the New England Farmer.

HORSE PITCHFORKS.

DEAR SIR:—I notice in your issue of the 18th inst., an inquiry in regard to horse pitchforks. I would say in reply to that inquiry, that I have used a fork of that kind for four seasons past, and with some experiments made myself, and opportunities for observing the working of other kinds, have come to the conclusion that the one I use is the most simple, cheapest, and most efficient.

The principle upon which it operates is the same as the common hand fork; that is, the power is applied to the head, or near the tines, while

the operator holds it by the handle, or when beyond his reach, by a cord attached to the handle, and is thus enabled to discharge the hay at any point above the beams desired. The other necessary appendages are a long rope, such as every farmer should have; one single pulley block to be fastened to the rafters through which the hoisting rope passes, and also another pulley block at the door post to bring the draft at the proper angle on the horse; the fork can be used in any barn of ordinary size. I have used this fork for stacking hay; a stiff pole being necessary, and two light guy ropes running in the opposite direction from which the horse draws.

I consider pitching hay by horse power as one of the economies of farming, and the fork as an appropriate accompaniment to the mowing machine and horse rake.

I have shown the operation of this fork to Mr. Alzirus Brown, of Worcester, Mass., manufacturer of mowing machines and wheel horse rakes, and I understand that he will build some of them this season, putting them at five dollars each, and if well built, it is cheap enough.

North Salem, Feb., 1860. L. G. KNIFFEN.

LEGISLATIVE AGRICULTURAL MEETING.

[REPORTED FOR THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER BY THOS. BRADLEY.]

The tenth meeting of the series of the Legislative Agricultural Society was held in the Representatives' Hall on Monday evening, and was very well attended. Col. HEARD, of Wayland, presided. The subject for discussion was, "*Manures—what are the best kinds, and their application?*"

Mr. HOWARD, of Boston, was the first speaker. He said it was a subject he had not lately given much attention to, yet it was one which interests farmers more than any other. It has been truly said that muck was the mother of money, [the meal chest. Ed.] and he was sorry to say that there had been too little attention given to manures, which were always a source of wealth. In Ohio, the idea had prevailed that the soil was inexhaustible, and farmers there had gone on year after year neglecting manures, until they could get but miserable crops, and now the soil has so deteriorated that they are going further West, where they can pursue the same course. From this it had been asserted by Mr. Fay at a former meeting, that American agriculture was a system of devastation. He spoke of what England would have been had she pursued the same system, and compared it with her present agricultural prosperity. Mr. Howard said that it was the duty of every farmer to save all the excrement, both solid and liquid, on his farm, as also that in his household, and, if this were done, there would be no deficiency in our State. In some cases lime might be used as a fertilizer, but he thought east of the Connecticut Valley it would not do well. Guanos of some kinds, and bones, the latter particularly, had been used with excellent effect, and now they constitute a material element in our manures. He spoke of superphosphate of lime, saying that he had heard various reports as to its effects, but he thought if the pure article was obtained, it was excellent as an auxiliary. He thought the best course for farmers would be to experiment carefully with the different kinds of fertilizers, and by carefully noting the result, arrive at what would suit their land the best. Mr. Howard also spoke of various phosphates that had been introduced here and in England, but expressed the opinion that none were of the value of those from the barn-yard.

Dr. LORING, of Salem, said we had neglected the study of the composition and use of manures, while in Europe the utmost care has been bestowed, assisted by science. He doubted whether any farmer here could tell the best method of manuring corn, root crops or grain. We are, said he, too much in the habit of using the manures made on the farm as our fathers used them in their day, without taking the trouble to improve upon their practice, and thus gain the knowledge to make us prosperous. There are many places in this State, where the contents of the sink-drains, water courses, muck beds, &c., are neglected, and this placed farmers who had none of these advantages and who were in less favorable localities, under a difficulty. It was a question in his mind whether our farmers could afford to import foreign manures. There were farms located on the sea-coast, the owners of which used kelp and other sea weeds, which were very good fertilizers, but he did not have this benefit. He had made up his mind to manure his farm from its own products, and he had stocked it with this object. He thought it was better to do this than to pay the expense of teaming, &c. He considered that, for top-dressing on grass lands, nothing was better than farm-yard manure, well rotted and well composted. He hauled his muck in August, and put a good layer of it on his cellar floor, then a layer of manure, then another layer of muck and so on, alternating. His cellar was 100 ft. long and 32 ft. wide, and into this he carted from 100 to 130 cart loads of 36 solid feet of muck, and in wet or stormy weather he had his men turning it, so that when it went on the grass lands in January, it is thoroughly rotted, and this he found increased the grass crop from 50 to 75 per cent. the first season. For roots he used the same manure, and backed up the furrows in plowing, as he found this was good to prevent weeds, and to pulverize the soil, while by plowing twice, and harrowing and raking, it thoroughly mixed the compost with the soil.

In relation to applying green manure, he said

he thought that he could get 50 per cent. more crops by manuring with well rotted and pulverized compost than with green manure, and he thought it would be well for farmers to think of this. He thought ashes and other fertilizers of a similar description were good for top-dressing, as was also gypsum, but there was nothing that he was aware of that was so valuable to the farmer as the manures produced on his own farm.

Mr. STOUGHTON, of Gill, differed with Dr. Loring in regard to the application of green manures to grass in spring, and said that he had been led to do so from practical results. He stated that he had got five tons of fine hay per acre from his land by manuring with green manure, while he had manured a portion with a compost he had prepared from the compost of an old pig pen mixed with manure and put it on thick in the spring, and the result was, he did not see any difference between the crop from that and a portion that had not been manured, while that he had manured with green manure gave two tons per acre in a bad season. He said he did not see the gain in carting muck to the barn-yard and then back again to the field, unless it was valuable as a manure in itself, without it was to dry it, and so have it absorb the liquids that would otherwise run away. He thought plaster and ashes of great service, and he considered the former returned 25 per cent. profit on the money paid for it, but he had found nothing to pay so well as gathering all the vegetable matter about his farm, using clean, dry oak and maple leaves for bedding for his cattle and swine, and thus converting it into manure. He alluded to a neighbor of his, who, the past season, made 150 to 200 loads of good manure by keeping pigs, and from the sale of his pork and shoats he had cleared $60 more for them than they cost, and this he reckoned would pay for their feed, thus leaving the manure clear profit. He said he used from 20 to 25 loads of green manure to the acre for grass land. He had used guano, 400 lbs. to the acre, and plowed it in, and it did well in a plain, sandy soil, and he sowed the same piece with rye, and got a good crop, but the next year he again sowed with rye, and he never had so poor a crop, and from this he considered guano was not a profitable fertilizer to him.

Dr. LORING said he thought the last speaker forgot the fact that muck was vegetable matter, judging from his remarks in regard to it, yet he admitted that he had never made the experiment as to whether it would act as a fertilizer alone. He used it as an absorbent, and to prevent the manure from heating. He would like to see any man spread a load of green manure, and thought from the almost impossibility of doing this, that the manure used by Mr. Stoughton had been partially decomposed. He contended that there were gases and other fertilizing properties formed and retained by using the manure thoroughly rotted, which were not obtained by using it in a green state.

Mr. STOUGHTON replied, that he used manure wholly unrotted, and he thought that a large proportion of the muck used had been so far rotted that all the fertilizing properties had been taken out of it.

Mr. FAY, of Lynn, said he thought the question to be decided was the *economy* in using manures, and not the effect. He agreed with Mr. Stoughton as to the good effect of the application of green manures, but he thought the majority of farmers would prefer them a year old, if they could get them. He thought the properties of manures were more difficult to lose than is generally supposed. He said he had tried green manure for top-dressing in the spring, and by its side the composted manure, and he saw very little difference in the crops, but mowing and raking the land thus manured showed a considerable difference, as the former would cost to mow something like $1,50 per acre, while the latter by machinery, would not cost more than 25 cents. Sheep manure had been spoken of by Mr. Stoughton, but this, Mr. Fay said, could not be composted. He thought there were scarcely two muck bottoms in the State alike, and while some were valueless, others were exceedingly valuable. He had a great quantity on his farm, but it was worth nothing, while that of Dr. Loring might be excellent.

The article of bones was then considered, and the speaker said it was a disgrace to the farmers of Massachusetts, that so many thousand tons were exported from Boston to enrich the fields of England. For the turnip crop, particularly, this was excellent, and it was precisely known how much such crop required to reach the highest state of productiveness, viz.: 16 bushels to the acre, and it had been fully demonstrated that even 25 or 50 bushels would produce no more, and this was proved to be the very best manure for this crop. Phosphates, he said, may be used as stimulants, but barn-yard manure was the foundation of all fertilizers.

Mr. WETHERELL, of Boston, spoke of English opinions of the relative merits of green and composted manures, showing that the green was preferred. He also alluded to other fertilizers not named by other speakers, as also to the experiments made in England in raising crops without manure by constantly turning the soil, thus enabling it to absorb the nutritive properties in the air, and the success that had thus far attended this method.

Col. HEARD, of Wayland, said, in his neighborhood it was the custom to apply the manure in

the green state, and then follow on with grass, and then apply again green mixed with sand or muck. He cut his corn as early as possible, and after taking it off the land in the fall he sowed grass seed, which he thought was better than sowing it in the Spring. Very little top-dressing was used in his section except on the low grass lands. Wool waste, worth $8 per cord, was considered profitable by some farmers, but he thought differently. The practice was to apply it as a compost, or to sow it and put some in the hills with potatoes.

Mr. SPARHAWK, of Charlestown, spoke of the chemical properties of the various manures, but the time having arrived for adjournment, it was moved by Mr. Stoughton that the same subject be continued for discussion at the next meeting. This was carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned.

For the New England Farmer.

PLOWING IN GRASS.

MR. EDITOR:—I noticed in the *Farmer* of Feb. 11, an article on improving the soil by plowing in a crop of clover. As that does not agree with my experience I will give another view of green crops for manure.

Several years ago, having a piece of ground that was worn down, wanting to improve it, and being short of manure, the last of June, the whole crop of grass was plowed in well, at about 1 ton per acre; during the season, as the weeds came up, they were plowed in; this was done three times.

The next spring it was spread with a coat of barn-cellar manure and planted with corn, hoed three times, and a poorer piece of corn I never raised! while on a piece adjoining, equal in every respect, that had no grass plowed in, was a good crop of corn.

In June, 1858, wanting to sow a little more fodder corn, I broke up a piece that was taken off from an old pasture adjoining a piece of mowing that bore heavy grass; the old fence being moved, left a bog, running anglewise the piece; to make it square, I plowed about one-half of each, mowing and pasture; the grass on the mowing when plowed was knee high, which was all turned in, and the whole was spread with manure and corn sowed in drills; I ran the cultivator between the rows, but did not hoe it; the corn on the old pasture land grew 8 feet high and over, while the corn on the mowing land never grew more than 2 feet, and was yellow and sickly all the season. Last year I sowed the same with corn, with the same result.

Such is my experience in plowing in grass for a fertilizer. W. E. D.

Harvard, Mass., Feb. 13, 1860.

"AN OLD MAN, *Hebron, N. H.*"—If the writer of the article signed as above will send his remarks to the writer of the article dated at North Groton, N. H., we think he will accomplish his purpose better than by publishing the criticisms he has sent us.

For the New England Farmer.

STOCK RAISING.

MR. EDITOR:—Your Chelmsford correspondent, "T. J. P.," in an article published in the *Farmer*, after figuring the cost of a calf one year old at $22, gravely asks the question, whether he shall sell the calf at a positive loss at that age, or keep it longer, with the certain prospect of a greater loss? The fact is, if there is any profit in raising stock, it consists in raising animals to maturity; good cows for milk and good oxen for labor; the best of which will pay the expenses of raising, thus giving their carcasses a profit to the owner. The profit or loss in every case will depend on the intelligence, or want of it, in selecting the animals to be raised. Accidents will sometimes happen, and unavoidable losses of animals occur, and the most matured judgment may make a wrong selection, from the fact that there is so great a want of uniformity in our common neat stock; but all these causes combined, though they may affect, will not consume the aggregate profit of the business. In this section, it is generally considered more profitable to raise cows than oxen, and some of the shrewdest farmers buy their oxen at four or five years old, keep them a few years, and turn them off with greatly increased weight; but it is evident somebody must raise them, and I propose to take two calves and raise them to oxen, and will state the case as fairly as I am able. We are obliged to let our cows calve to keep them in milk, spaying cows not having become general, nor is it likely to become so. I will therefore enter,

TWO CALVES.	Dr.
To 12 qts. of new milk per day, 5 weeks, at 2½c per qt.	$10,50
To 12 qts. of skim milk per day, 5 weeks, at 1c per qt.	4,20
To 100 lbs. of hay	60
To 5 months pasturing, at 75c per month	3,75
To 2 tons second quality hay, corn stover, straw, &c., at $6 per ton	12,00
To 10 bush. carrots, at 16⅔c per bu.	1,67
To barn room, &c	2,00
Cost at the end of the first year	$34,72
To 5½ months pasturing, at $1 per month	$5,50
To 2½ tons of mixed hay, at $7	17,50
To barn room, and small, nameless expenses	2,00
To interest on the first year's cost	2,08
To 15 bu. mangolds, at 10c per bushel	1,50
Cost at the end of the second year	$63,30
To 5¼ months pasturing, at $1,25 per month	6,32
To 3 tons of hay, at $9 per ton	27,00
To barn room, &c	3,00
To 15 bush. carrots, at 16⅔	2,50
To interest on the cost	3,79
Cost at the end of the third year	$106,41
	Cr.
By labor	$10,00
Value of labor deducted from the cost	$96,41
To pasturing 5½ months, at $1,50 per month	8,25
To 3 tons of hay, at $12 per ton	36,00
To 5 bush. meal, at $1 per bushel	5,00
To barn room, and other expenses	4,00
To interest on the cost	5,78
Cost at the end of the fourth year	$155,44
	Cr.
By labor	$25,00
Value of labor deducted	$130,44

Our oxen are now four years old, and are capable of earning their living until they are five years old, when they may take the place of older cattle on the farm that are fatted for the market, and with ordinary chances afford a clear profit over all

expenses of $25 per year, for two, three or four years, as the judgment of the owner may determine.

I have traced these figures out with direct reference to the profit, being convinced that raising cattle in this way, commencing with a poorer and changing to a better quality of fodder, is attended with better results than the reverse, and would much prefer to give to young cattle the same value in roots than grain.

In looking over the figures, many probably will be surprised at the cost of raising cattle even in this cheap way, and will not fail to detect that, up to their fourth year, steers will not generally sell for what they cost, especially at the price of beef; for, by rapid transportation, the West is brought into competition with us, in this respect. But we can profitably raise what cattle we need, and every year they are kept after they become cows or oxen, they will reduce the cost of raising to that point, if rightly managed. "Aye, there's the rub," for many a man will suffer his oxen to eat his hay through the winter without returning an equivalent in labor, much less reducing the cost of raising them. Such men can find nothing to do, when the fact is, they are too lazy to work. These are they, who really "scab the craft." Good stock, of all kinds needed on the farm, will pay for raising, and is not accountable for individual management. How many farmers pursue their business in the same manner that Mr. Pinkham reasons upon; oftentimes leaving some other business, with the mistaken idea, that money can be rapidly made by farming without hard labor. They commence with considerable zeal, but being of an intellectual turn of mind, and becoming tired with what seems to them the hard and monotonous labor of the farm, they find the figures against them in their initial operations. In other words, their acre of corn has brought them $10, and their calf $5 in debt, consequently it will not pay to raise the calf nor continue the cultivation of the acre of land; they, therefore, decide to quit the business, and generally become men of change. H. KIMBALL.

Kennebunk, Me., Jan. 28, 1860.

ERRATUM.—In a former communication, after the year in barley, either read "cost of crop," or refer crop to what follows. H. K.

For the New England Farmer.

MODES OF GETTING CROPS.

I have often thought it singular that some of the multitude of your experienced farmer correspondents have not told us how they perform the various operations of the farm. Few are alike in all respects in this particular, and if intelligent, practical men would give us their modes of operation, your numerous readers would have before them much matter for reflection, and find many things, no doubt, for adoption.

It is not to be suppose that the best method of doing things in one locality, is to be the rule for all, or that those in possession of vegetable soils, are to adopt the treatment of those farming a sandy one; but in the course of their farm arrangements, each and all may develop processes that will be of value to their fellow-farmers.

It strikes me that if you were to give prominence to this suggestion, and call out the farm management of your intelligent correspondents and readers, we should have a mass of valuable matter for our consideration.

With your permission, therefore, I will, in some future communications, detail my management and experience, although quite limited, I suppose, compared with many others whom I hope to see giving us theirs. J. COE.

Rochester, Mass., Jan. 11, 1860.

REMARKS.—Very well—go ahead. We had supposed that every page of the *Farmer* gave more or less of the details of securing almost every crop raised in New England.

For the New England Farmer.

POTATOES ON GRASS LAND.

My land is in Brewer, Me., is clayey loam, free from stones, and now free from stumps, though it has been but twelve years since it was covered with a heavy growth of pine and hemlock timber. The day before I want to plant my potatoes, I spread a fair coat of manure on a piece of grass land that was mowed the year before, and after I have spread over as large a piece as will make one day's planting, (so as to keep the manure from drying up,) I commence at one edge of the piece with a light sward plow and a strong pair of oxen, and run a rather shallow furrow as straight as possible, lapping this furrow of course on to the green sward so that the two grass surfaces will lay together. The seed is dropt about eight inches apart, on the grass land, right at the edge of the furrow that was turned up; then plow another back furrow, lapping it on the grass as before, so the two edges will meet together and cover the seed, and also the width of two furrows that has not been disturbed with the plow, that is, the two furrows are "cut and cover," as farmers call it, as is always the case when you commence in the middle of a "land" and turn with a gee, and so on for the whole piece; but this furrow is a little more difficult, for the plow must run back *in*, or *at* the edge of this last track, but the plow can run a little deeper this third time, so as to give it hold enough of the earth to turn up this third furrow and lap it on the grass, ready to drop another row of potatoes.

The two narrow grass surfaces are thus laid together, with the manure between them, and the potatoes are planted in the midst, where they have a warm, moist nest, and will soon sprout up through the joint of the two furrows, and the roots will run out among the grass and manure, under each sod, and get all the benefit of the decomposing grass-sward and dressing.

The seed is not so liable to be drowned by heavy spring rains, for the water will settle in the ditches made by the plow, and the plants will stand the drough better, because these two grass surfaces will retain a sweat and moisture that the mellow earth will not. It is very little work to hoe them, for they do not need much larger hill or bed than they already have.

I have planted so for three years, and last season planted six acres of Jackson Whites in this manner, and think I can raise about double the

crop per acre that my neighbors do, planted in the common way. When I dig them, the sward is very well rotted, but retains strength enough to be turned off with the hoe in flakes and lumps, and there the potatoes lay like apples on a shelf, and as clean as smelts, for they have seen no dirt, looking at you and inviting you to pick them up; and the land is in tip-top order, for these old grass sods have had a ground sweat all summer, and have become quite rotten. I lack a suitable plow, for I need a *sward* plow with a mould-board on each side. Will some of the plow folks see what they can get up for this purpose?

I advise farmers to try it without fail.

Malden, Mass. A. S. HALL.

EXTRACTS AND REPLIES.

SANDY LAND—CLAY—MUCK.

1. Can sandy loam soil be productive without costing more than it will be worth? If any one can tell me how I can manage this soil to make it fertile, produce great crops of grass and not fail in a dry season, they will do me a favor.

2. Will it pay to haul clay one mile to mix with sandy loam?

3. Will it pay to expend two hundred dollars in building a manure cellar under a lean-to that will tie up twenty-six head of cattle?

4. Is muck worth more to use for bedding than it is to mix with the manure heap after it is thrown into the cellar. A YOUNG FARMER.

Embden, Me., Feb., 1860.

REMARKS.—1. That depends upon circumstances. If clay and muck are near by, and manure can be made, or purchased at a fair price, (and this *price* must be graduated by the price of farm products in the vicinity,) sandy lands can be made profitably productive. Sandy *loams* would be still more easily reclaimed.

2. We have no doubt it will.

3. We cannot tell—so many collateral circumstances are to be considered. We fully believe in barn cellars.

4. Muck may be advantageously used in both ways, Fine dry muck is excellent as a bedding, to say nothing of its absorbing power, and when used as bedding, it becomes at once mingled with the droppings, and everything is saved.

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FISH AS MANURE.

Will some one inform me of the comparative value of fish as a manure, also the probable cost delivered in Worcester? How it will work on sandy loam, and which would be the best and cheapest, fish or horse manure, which costs $3 or $3,25 in Worcester, and which we must cart seven miles? E. H. NEWTON.

Auburn, Mass., 1860.

—

COFFEE SPECULATION.

I wish to inquire if Java coffee will grow in the New England States? If so, with what success?

Hopkinton, Mass., 1860. S. W. M.

REMARKS.—We are not able to inform you.

ORCHARD GRASS.

In the *Farmer* of Feb. 18, I noticed an interesting article on this plant, giving its description, history, &c. I wish to inquire where the seed may be obtained, and at what price? Also, whether it will flourish on ordinary plain land? J. A. A.

Springfield, Mass., Feb., 1860.

REMARKS.—Orchard grass seed may be obtained of Messrs. Nourse & Co., 34 Merchants' Row, Boston, at from $1,25 to $1,75 per bushel, according to the manner in which it is cleaned up. Twelve to sixteen quarts per acre is the amount usually sowed.

—

CULTIVATION OF PEAS.

Will some one acquinted with raising the crop inform me in regard to raising peas? What kind of land is best adapted to them? How deep should they be plowed, and what quantity sowed to the acre? Would they do well plowed in on moist greensward? A NEW SUBSCRIBER.

Waterbury Centre, 1860.

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A FINE PAIR OF CATTLE.

I have a pair of cattle, now seven years old, raised by myself, and kept in quite active service until within three months past. They have had no extra attention or feed, until within this time. They are very well matched, and weigh upwards of 5000 lbs., and have been spoken of as being the heaviest pair of well matched oxen in the county. D. Z. STEELE.

Sharon, Vt., March, 1860.

REMARKS.—A good example, friend Steele. A pair of cattle like these, having pretty much paid their way by their labor, will afford nearly what they bring as clear profit, to say nothing of the honest pride a man has in rearing such a pair. We will venture to say that no one hears Mr. Steele grumbling about the profits of farming. He takes a good agricultural newspaper, no doubt, and observes what other people are doing in his profession.

—

BITTER CREAM.

I have a cow six years old; she gives very rich milk, and good tasted, until it has stood about twenty-four hours, when the cream becomes bitter; some messes very bitter and some but little. The first two years it was perfectly sweet. She is well kept, and has plenty of salt. A year ago the past winter she was kept on good rowen, and the cream was the most bitter then. I wish to inquire of you, or some of your correspondents, the cause and remedy, if there is any.

Proctorsville, Vt., 1860. SUBSCRIBER.

—

HUBBARD SQUASH SEED.

I would like to inform your subscribers, through your columns, that any one wishing to obtain some of the celebrated "Hubbard Squash" seeds, can have a small quantity free, by sending a prepaid envelope to my address.

Cumberland, Me., 1860. HORACE I. GRAY.

THE WOOD DUCK.

This bird, which is also called the *Summer Duck*, is the most beautiful of American aquatic fowls. It derives its former name from the fact that its nest is made in hollow trees, and the latter from its migratory habit, which carries it far to the South during our winter months. The plumage of this duck is of the most brilliant description, an idea of which can hardly be conveyed in words. The head is of a deep glossy green, the crest being rich bronze green, ending in violet. The line of pure white, running from the upper mandible over the eye, and the other line of white commencing behind the eye and running down into the neck, blend beautifully with the green of the head and crest. The throat is pure white, the breast dark violet brown, marked with white spots, which grow larger until they spread into the white of the belly. The wings and back, and posterior parts of the body, are all beautifully marked. Of the habits of this fowl, BEMENT says:

It is only seen in the North during the summer months, migrating southwardly with the cold weather. It is familiarly known in every part of the United States, from Florida to Lake Ontario. It rarely visits the sea-shore or salt marshes, its favorite haunts being the solitary, deep and muddy creeks, ponds, and mill-dams of the interior, making its nest frequently in some old hollow tree that overhangs the water.

The wood duck seldom flies in flocks of more than three or four individuals together, and most commonly in pairs, or singly. The common note of the drake is *Peet! peet!* but when, standing sentinel, he sees danger, he makes a noise not unlike the crowing of a young cock—*Oe eek! oe eek!* It breeds from Mexico to the Columbia River, and eastwardly to Nova Scotia. It has been found from 19° south to 54° north latitude. Its food consists of acorns, chestnuts, seeds of wild oats, aquatic plants, and insects. Its eggs yellowish-white.

This beautiful bird is easily domesticated, and soon becomes so familiar as to permit one to stroke its back with the hand. "Captain Boice, Collector of the port of Havre de Grace, informs me," says Wilson, "that about forty years ago, a Mr. Nathan Nichols, who lived on the west side of Gunpowder Creek, had a whole yard swimming with wood ducks, which had been tamed and completely domesticated, so that they bred and were as familiar as any other tame fowls; that he (Captain Boice) himself saw them in that state, but does not know what became of them." Latham says that they are often kept in European manageries, and will breed there.

COLORING BUTTER.

In many cases it is not necessary to use any coloring substance. But sometimes butter, (especially in the winter season,) is quite white, and in order to make it more inviting to the palate, as well as more saleable in the market, some coloring substance is used. Some people color it with carrot juice, but I prefer a more simple, and I think a better way.

When the butter is gathering, drop into it the yolk of one or more eggs, (the number depending upon the quantity of cream,) and churn all together till the butter is gathered. The yolk, like butter, being of an oily nature, greatly improves the flavor as well as color of the butter.

DAIRYWOMAN.

Mendon, Mass., March, 1860.

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HORSE PITCHFORK.

I noticed an inquiry in the *Farmer* about the horse pitchfork, from "W. N. C.," Hartford, Vt. From a personal knowledge of it, I think it to be most desirable labor-saving implements now in use, as it makes the once most dreaded part of the haying season easy. I can put a ton of hay from the load over the high beams in from three to five minutes, or I can pitch a ton of hay over the beams in seven minutes, through the afternoon, without making it hard work. Its cost is $12. It can be used in a shed, or any part of the barn, used in stacking hay, or lifting corn, &c.

Chester, Vt., 1860. H. B. WOOD.

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MOWING MACHINES—HORSERADISH SEED.

Will some of your readers give us a description of a machine lately got up at Concord, N. H., one horse $50, and two horse $55, and whether friction is overcome more than in those now in use? Where can I procure horseradish seed, and at what price?

SUBSCRIBER.

Pottersville, N. H., 1860.

For the New England Farmer.

FARMING IS PROFITABLE.

Mr. Editor:—A writer in your paper of March 10 speaks of Mr. Jefferson, as saying that "the farmer is the greatest of all gamblers;" and in another paragraph the writer says, "Man sows, but *God* giveth the increase." No one will doubt the truth of the last declaration; and I admit, that God and the farmer are co-workers, but I will not admit, for a moment, that God or farming have anything to do with gambling. Your correspondent asks, *must* the mass of farmers live as cheap as they can, and trust to God for the result of their labor? To this I would answer, that no class of people in the world live better than the farmers. For proof of this, look to their health and strength; and I rejoice that the farmers as well as all other classes of people, must trust in God for the result of their labor. He speaks of the painter as making very accurate calculations of the stock and labor for doing a given job. But can that painter make any calculations, how much it will tax his health? How often do we meet a painter in the street that would give all he possesses, if he could have his health restored to him.

He also says, "let a general farmer cultivate all the crops—in no season will more than half of them be successful in Massachusetts." In this I think he commits a great error. For the last sixty-five years, I never have known any one year when half the crops were cut off. During that period I have known the corn crop to fail but three times. A few large crops do not determine that farming is profitable, neither do a few small ones prove it unprofitable. I do not undertake to say what profession the Pilgrims followed before they left the old country; but one thing is very certain, after arriving here, they must have practiced farming or starved. I can very well remember events for the last sixty-five years. Almost the entire community then were farmers. Have we ever heard of any country in the known world, that has equalled our own in the rapid accumulation of wealth? Have not the farmers been the foundation of all this? Have they not changed the New England States from a howling wilderness, to what they now are? Is not the soil of New England, now, on an average, worth a hundred-fold what it was when the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth? Have not the farmers laid the foundation of all the improvements, manufactures, rail-roads and every improvement in the country? And do they not, at the present day, give support to all of them? What class of people have gone, and are still going to settle our Western States? It is the farmer. And if there should be no profit in their business, would there be any chance for the doctor, the lawyer and the shaver of notes to get a living there? I know there is, occasionally, a man who does not work at farming, that dresses better, holds his head higher, and in appearance seems to think himself better than farmers. I know not what his occupation may be, but let it be what it may, if all farming operations were suspended, I presume he would feel the effects of it equally as much as a beautiful, green sucker, with a smooth bark, growing out of an old apple-tree, would, if the main stock should be cut off.

I am frequently asked, "if there is a profit in farming, what becomes of it?" I will answer that, by relating one fact. About fifty years ago, a farmer in this town had two sons, and thought he would prepare them for business. He spent about $500 on each of them in education and clothing, and then gave each of them $1000, to establish himself in business, making the snug little sum of $3000. Now, if any of your readers will reckon the amount of this, at compound interest, they will find it amounts to quite a sum. I presume hundreds of thousands, have done likewise, which tells us where the profits of farming, have gone. I am firm in the belief, that there is not property enough in the New England States, separate from the farms, and the property owned by farmers, to pay the sum with compound interest that the farmers have expended, the past sixty-five years, to help along what friend Merriam calls the "sister arts" of business, Shall we keep harping in the ears of the few aged farmers that remain, and as we pass the graves of the departed, "there is no profit in farming."

Asa G. Sheldon.

Wilmington, March 27, 1860.

For the New England Farmer.

HOW TO RAISE LARGE CABBAGES.

Mr. Editor:—"Old Subscriber" wishes to know how to raise large cabbages. Let me tell him. Plow land deep, harrow fine, put on twelve cords of strong manure to the acre; plow and harrow as before, then take a small plow and furrow twice in a row; put one large shovel full of strong manure in each hill, 2½ feet apart; chop fine with a hoe, and cover with two inches of earth. Drop from five to twenty seeds in each hill. After the plants are well up, cultivate and hoe twice a week, and thin to one in a hill as they become large enough.

As I have followed the sea till within a few years, my plans may be a little different from most farmers. Perhaps "Subscriber" will ask how I get manure at this rate for so much land? I will tell him. I keep one pair of oxen and two horses in the winter season to draw manure; first we get all the vault manure possible, kelp from the beach, and all kinds of manure that I can buy, never being afraid of getting too much.

Capt. Samuel Graves.

Marblehead, Mass., 1860.

Regularity in Milking.—Mr. O. E. Hannum, a very successful dairyman of Portage Co., Ohio, a native of old Berkshire, Mass., names the points of his management as follows: Good cows, good feed, *good milking*, good care and management of the milk. He puts "good milking" in italics, and remarks: "Each cow should have a steady milker, be milked as fast as possible, and all the milk drawn. I am satisfied that there is a loss of one-third in many dairies, by the lazy, haphazard way in which cows are milked. I have known persons sit down in the milking-yard and go through with some long yarn, and be from ten to twenty minutes milking one cow, when it should be done in less than five."

For the New England Farmer.

HIGH FARMING ON LONG ISLAND.

MR. EDITOR:—I have been much interested in the discussion in your paper, for some weeks past, upon the question, "*Is Farming Profitable*," and I desire to state to your readers what has been done upon "Long Island," upon lands similar in every respect to those I advertised in your paper for sale a few weeks since. One person owning a farm of 40 acres, at Flatends, 6 miles from Brooklyn, raises principally early potatoes, peas, lettuce, &c., with an after-crop of cabbages, has, for twenty years in succession, been able to invest regularly $2000 upon bond and mortgage, and has now $40,000 safely invested, and thinking he has made sufficient, offers his farm for sale at $500 an acre.

Another farm of about 200 acres at South Jamaica, about 12 miles distant from market, is occupied by three brothers, who cultivate a general variety of vegetables and small fruits. I am told by an intimate friend of theirs, that they expend $3000 annually for manure, and that their average annual profit, over and above all expenses, beside making their farm more valuable, is $6000 per annum. I might go on and fill a column with such cases. And I hold that what these men have done others may do. Your readers may say these people are nearer to market than the lands I advertise. I answer that we have made a favorable arrangement with the Long Island Railroad Company to run a nightly train through the market season, and a barge in connection with the railroad, delivering at the principal market in New York, early every morning, all kinds of marketing we choose to send. We consign them to reliable commission merchants, who dispose of them, and make returns without seeing the owners at all. I am satisfied "farming is profitable," intelligently conducted, and if these men I have mentioned can make their farms pay a good interest upon a valuation of $500 to $1000 per acre, what may be done upon just as good land at $20 to $50 the acre? Yours truly, AARON STONE.

New York, Feb., 1860.

For the New England Farmer.

GROTON FARMERS' CLUB.

MR. EDITOR:—Our farmers' club have adopted and put in practice, what I understand to be the practice of the Concord Farmers' Club, i. e., the writing and reading of an essay, by a member of the club, on some subject pertaining to the farm, and after the reading, discussions, or conversations by the members on the subject of the essay. Since adopting this practice, a much warmer interest has been manifested in the meetings of the club, and we have reason for hoping that good will result from the practice.

At the meeting of the club on the 5th inst., we had the pleasure of listening to a lecture by Henry C. Vail, Esq., of Sing Sing, N. Y., on subjects pertaining to the farm. The attendance was very large. Mr. Vail illustrated much of his lecture, by means of diagrams, by the aid of which many things were made plain, which otherwise would have been shrouded in mystery. He riveted the attention of his audience for nearly two hours, and at the close of the lecture, questions were asked by the audience, and answered by the lecturer. The close attention paid by all present to the lecture, for so long a time—nearly two hours—plainly spoke the deep interest imparted to the subjects by Mr. Vail's method of presenting them.

After the meeting adjourned, many members of the club, among whom was Ex-Governor Boutwell, expressed to Mr. V., in flattering terms, the pleasure they had enjoyed. We hope to have Mr. V. deliver a course of lectures before the club at some future day, and most heartily wish that he may lecture before every agricultural club and society in this Commonwealth. His method of treating agricultural subjects makes his lectures interesting to all classes, not excepting the ladies, many of whom were present at his lecture here, and expressed the wish to hear him again.

Yours truly, A. H. C.

Groton, March 12, 1860.

For the New England Farmer.

EXACT COST OF A CORN CROP.

FARMING IS PROFITABLE.

I have been somewhat surprised, and not a little amused, by the perusal of several articles in the *Farmer* by Mr. Pinkham, of Chelmsford, in which he labors very energetically to make himself and others believe that the whole farming community, or at least all such as are not fortunate enough to have rich relations to give them a start, are coming to poverty at railroad speed, as at the rate of ten dollars for every acre of corn they cultivate, and a like proportion for every thing else.

He reminds me of a certain grocer I once knew, who was the only one in a small village, and doing a first-rate business, but so great was his fear that some one would start in opposition, that he always made a practice of running down his business so as to deter others from going into it, notwithstanding in a few years he retired from business with a fortune. I don't say that friend Pinkham has made a fortune, or is ever going to, by farming; indeed, I think he never will, if it costs him as much to raise an acre of corn as he says it does, but one thing I am sure of, which is this,—a great many men have made money by farming, and by raising corn, too. I think if all his neighbors are as liberal in their estimates of labor as himself, that Chelmsford must be a perfect paradise for the day-laborer, although rather expensive for the employer. For instance, he puts down against his corn crop, $4,25 as the cost of plowing an acre. I venture to assert that any man with a good team, can afford to plow common kind of land for from $2,50 to $3 per acre, and make a good living at that. Then, again, he charges the corn with all the manure, which ought not to be done, for any intelligent farmer knows that manure spread broadcast is not more than half exhausted the first crop. He charges $6,50 for harvesting 30 bushels of corn and taking care of the fodder, which is $1,50 more than any reasonable man would ask, to do it by the job, or any other way. He also charges 50 cents for pulling weeds, which would not be necessary to be done if the hoeing was done, as it should have been, at the price allowed for it. As to marketing and shelling, there is no place in New England or New

York, at the present day, that it actually costs more than 6 to 8 cents per bushel to shell and market corn, and it need not be done in the night, either, as some of your correspondents suggest. I do not pretend to say that Mr. Pinkham did not expend $47 on an acre of corn. I presume he did, and also that others have done the same thing—but it is my opinion that any farmer that expends $47 on an acre of corn, with ten loads of manure on the land, must either have very poor land or be a very poor farmer, if he realizes only 30 bushels of corn and $7 worth of other stuff.

If farmers are continually going behind-hand, as he says, why do not more of them have to abandon the business? Why do we not hear of more of them becoming insolvent? I will venture the assertion that for every farmer that becomes bankrupt, there are five in the mercantile profession, which Mr. Pinkham seems to think is a short and easy road to wealth.

The past season I have raised three acres of corn, and instead of its running me in debt, I have made it a profitable crop, notwithstanding Mr. P.'s assertion that there is no profit in farming; to prove my position I will give my figures taken from a regular account kept with the crop, omitting dates. The account is no guess-work, but the actual cost of every thing except the labor, which I have charged at $1 per day—whereas it only cost me a little more than half that amount, as I paid $21 per month for my hired man, and he boarded himself; and if any doubt exists as to the accuracy of the account, the affidavits of myself and hired man can be had to substantiate it.

I have charged only half of the manure to this crop, for it does not belong to it. My account was kept with the whole three acres, but I will take one-third of that, so as to bring it down to one acre.

ONE ACRE OF CORN.	Dr.
To 1 man and 1 team of horses 1 day plowing	$3,00
To 1 man and 1 team of horses 1 day drawing manure	3,00
To ½ of 15 loads of manure	7,50
To 1 man ½ day spreading manure and harrowing	1,00
To " " ½ day marking	1,00
To " " 1 day planting, $1, seed and plaster, 37½ cts.	1,37½
To " " ½ day cultivating	1,00
To " " 1 day hoeing	1,00
To " " ½ day plowing	1,00
To " " 1 day hilling	1,00
To " " 1½ day cutting up at the hill and binding	1,50
To ½ " 4 days husking and cribbing	4,00
To 2 men ½ day drawing fodder, pumpkins, and other work	3,00
To plaster and putting it on	80
To interest, taxes, wear and tear of tools, &c.	4,00
To shelling and marketing, at 8 cts. per bushel	3,36
	$37,54

ONE ACRE OF CORN.	Cr.
By 42 bushels of corn, at $1,03	$43,26
By fodder sold	5,00
By 3 loads of pumpkins, at $1	3,00
By 4 bushels ears soft corn, at 25 cts.	1,00
	$52,26

I make the total cost of one acre of corn to be $37,54, instead of $47, and the receipts for the same $52,26, leaving $14,72, which I call profit. The number of days' manual labor bestowed on the crop, 17½, and the number of days' team labor, 4 days; and allowing a day with a team to be worth two of a man, making 25½ days' work necessary to cultivate an acre of corn. Deduct from the cost of the whole the worth of the fodder, pumpkins and soft corn, and I have $28,54 as the cost of 42 bushels of corn, or a trifle less than 68 cents per bushel, leaving 35 cents as something, whether it is profit or not.

If a merchant buys a piece of cloth for $1 per yard, and sells it for $1,25, he calls the 25 cents profit, (that is, if the $1 covers all expenses of transportation, &c.,) and if it is so, why is not my 35 cents on a bushel, profit also? True, I do not always make 35 cents a bushel on my corn crop, but I never yet have failed to make something clear. Mr. P. says, in his opinion no man can take a farm, go on, and in time pay for it, without outside help. I know of several that have done so, myself among the number. I have raised this year two acres of flax, on which I have made $23 per acre, over and above all cost, and if desirable, I will give the account with that crop at some future time. Mr. P. says one of two things is evident, that the farmer either gets no per cent. on his capital, or no pay for his labor.

If I allow $1 per day for every day's work I do on my corn crop, and pay in the same proportion for team labor, and have $14,72 left, I would like to know what that is but a certain per cent. on the capital invested in my farm?

Oak Hill, N. Y., 1860. INVESTIGATOR.

For the New England Farmer.

COOKING FOOD FOR STOCK---WILL IT PAY?

In the range of my agricultural reading, I find a record of but a few experiments to answer the above question, and I meet but few farmers able to answer it. Of those who have conducted experiments, the results of which go to show that it will pay, I find the following:

Cassius M. Clay states that after trial, he has found that one bushel of dry corn would make five pounds, ten ounces of pork. One bushel of boiled corn, fourteen pounds, ten ounces, and one bushel of boiled meal made in one instance sixteen pounds, seven ounces, and in another, nearly eighteen pounds of pork, or, in other words, when pork is eight cents per pound, dry corn is worth forty-five cents; boiled corn $1,15½, and boiled meal $1,31½ to $1,44 cents per bushel.

Mr. S. H. Clay, of Bourbon county, Ky., says that he has found, by careful experiment, that pork made by feeding raw corn at fifty-six cents per bushel, cost nine cents per pound; that made by feeding boiled corn cost four cents per pound, while that made by boiled meal cost three cents per pound.

Hon. H. L. Ellsworth, once Commissioner of Patents, says that it is a fact established by long experimenting, that corn ground and cooked is 150 per cent. better for fattening cattle and hogs, than corn as it is usually fed at the West.

If the conclusions arrived at by these experiments are correct, farmers who feed their grain or meal raw, are losing badly by such a course.

It has seemed surprising to me, that our State Agricultural Societies have not taken up this subject more generally, and offered liberal premiums for experiments in feeding cooked and uncooked food to cattle and swine. If the value of grain for feeding is increased by cooking one-half the amount that the experiments referred to would indicate, most certainly our farmers ought to know it, and practice accordingly.

Our agricultural societies pay hundreds of dollars annually in premiums for the best animals of different kinds, exhibited at our shows, but what we most need to know, is, how most economically to produce them. Premiums offered for good animals, or crops, are but little benefit to the public without this.

I have not been able to ascertain that more than one society in the State (the Hampshire, at Amherst,) has offered premiums for such experiments. In that case, but two persons made a trial—Messrs. MONTAGUE and HUBBARD, both of whose experiments were decidedly unfavorable to the use of cooked food. I have recently seen the statement that, from experiments conducted in Scotland, it would not pay to cook food for stock. In view of these conflicting results from different experiments, we need more light. Can you, Mr. Editor, or any of your correspondents, shed any upon the subject? ELIHU SMITH.

Sunderland, March, 1860.

LEGISLATIVE AGRICULTURAL MEETING.

[REPORTED FOR THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER BY THOS. BRADLEY.]

The eleventh meeting of the present series of the Legislative Agricultural Society was held in the Representatives' Hall at the State House on Monday evening. Col. HEARD, of Wayland, occupied the chair, and announced the subject for discussion to be "*Manures.*"

Mr. SPARHAWK, of Charlestown, being called upon, said it was well understood that the growth of plants was produced by air, light and the sustenance from the soil, and it was necessary that the nature of the plant should be known in order to know what sustenance it needs. It was an acknowledged fact that the lands in Massachusetts have very much deteriorated within thirty or fifty years by constant cropping, and he was of opinion, from what had been stated at the last meeting, that the lands in Ohio would soon be in the same condition, as he could only compare the people there to buffaloes roaming in search of new pastures, when they had used up all there was on the old. The speaker said that in China, France and England, the land, notwithstanding the heavy draft upon it, has improved under scientific tillage, and this confirmed him in the opinion that we must understand something of agricultural chemistry to restore our lands. This is not so much necessary on the rich lands, as on those worn out, in order to bring them to their primary condition.

Alluding to the growth of plants, Mr. Sparhawk said that when manure was thoroughly decomposed it was in its best condition for feeding, and that green manure, unless plowed in deep, was not so good, as the straw mixed with it acted as so many syphons, carrying off the ammonia and other fertilizing properties. If green manure is applied to the surface, he contended that it must be that a great part of the organic matter is lost. He considered it a great mistake to apply green manure to the surface of grass lands, and so far as his observation went, it had been particularly injurious when applied to the roots of trees. There was another objection to green manure, in the fact that when applied it contained, necessarily, a great mass of undigested matter, which not being thoroughly decomposed, was, as he thought, the means of drawing together and breeding worms or insects injurious to crops. He claimed that to avoid this, it should be diluted with carbon in the cellar and mixed with muck. He did not wish to be understood as saying that green manure well plowed into arable land, where it did not come in contact with trees or grass, was not good, but he considered that where manure was kept in the cellar until spring, without absorbents, and then carted to the field in a heap until used, it was a loss.

As a matter of economy, he said, no man can afford to purchase foreign manures, such as guano, &c., when better can be produced for much less money on any farm in the State. It is as necessary, said he, to study the wants of plants as that of animals, and the value of our crops depends upon the cultivation they receive, and the quality of the crop will increase in the same proportion as the quality of the land from cultivation.

Hon. AMASA WALKER, of North Brookfield, being called upon, said he had come to the city on another matter than that under discussion, but one which he considered paramount to all others at the present time—the disease among the cattle in that portion of the State where he resided.

On motion of Mr. Stoughton, of Gill, the subject under discussion was laid on the table and that of the cattle disease taken up.

Mr. WALKER said that he considered the danger from the disease was a hundred fold greater than it was two weeks ago, as the contagion had been found to be so rapid. It was well known that the disease was considered to be incurable in Europe, and he had been delegated by the selectmen of North Brookfield to come to Boston and urge upon the Legislature the necessity of taking immediate action to check its ravages. He alluded to the excitement existing in the towns where the disease was, as well as those surrounding, and said that it was supposed it had spread to Sterling, where four cows had been sold from a herd that had been exposed, but which had not yet shown symptoms of the disease.

Mr. STOUGHTON, of Gill, alluded to the resolve before the Legislature, and said it provided that when any person knew or suspected the disease to be among his cattle, he should give information to the Selectmen or Mayor and Aldermen. He thought that where some men were only going

to get fifty per cent. of the value of their cattle they would be slow to suspect this disease, as also that it would be difficult to convince others that their cattle really had the disease. His idea was, that a Commissioner should be appointed to destroy every animal that has the disease or has been in any way exposed to contagion, as if it cost the State $5000, $10,000 or even $25,000, it would be a trifle, comparatively. It would be better, said he, to kill fifty well animals than to run the slightest risk. It had been stated that the disease had abated among Mr. Chenery's herd, but he was informed that notwithstanding it did apparently abate for a time, Mr. Chenery had recently lost several animals, thus showing the danger of judging by appearances. He not only was desirous of seeing all infected cattle killed and buried, but the barns or buildings in which cattle affected had been kept, either thoroughly purified or burned.

Col. STONE, of Dedham, spoke of the action of Mr. Stoughton in relation to the resolve which was on the table of the House of Representatives and attributed the fact of its being in that position, and not having been passed, to that gentleman.

Mr. WALKER, of North Brookfield, said that when he drew up the bill that was presented before the Committee on Agriculture, he foresaw the many objections that would be raised to it, and many of them he recapitulated, but he wanted some one man or body of men appointed in whose judgment and honesty the Legislature could rely, to make examination and destroy the diseased cattle, and make such award therefor as was proper. In Europe there was a provision that if a man failed to give notice that any of his cattle were attacked with pleuro-pneumonia, he should be fined $30, while if he gave such notice he received full payment for his cattle.

Mr. Walker said he had been informed just as he was leaving home, but he would not vouch for the truth of the statement, that the disease had exhibited itself in another phase, which made it still more serious. A neighbor of his bought a cow last summer which was served by a bull belonging to Mr. Chenery, and which had since suffered from pleuro-pneumonia, and this offspring of the cow has the disease now, while the cow has never shown any symptoms of it.

Mr. FAY, of Lynn, said the question appeared to him to be as to the best mode of abating the disease, and he thought this could be done as well in twenty-four hours as in a year. On reading over the act which was before the Legislature, he had felt convinced that there should be something more urgent as well as stringent. Something must be done thoroughly, and whoever had the doing of it must apply the remedy as the knife is applied to the cancer. One, two or three persons should be appointed to attend to the matter, in whom the people have confidence, and these should have almost unlimited power, not only to destroy the cattle but the buildings, should they deem it necessary, and thus eradicate the disease. Mr. Fay said that $5000 was a mere pittance, yet so far as he knew, it might be enough, and more than enough, to pay the expense. If town by town, where an excitement on this subject was felt, were to come and present this matter to the Legislature, an appropriation as large as that of the general appropriation bill would be made. To show the feeling in his part of the State, he said a man who kept some 40 head of cattle, said he would give $100 towards having the disease eradicated, while another farmer who kept about the same number of cows, said he would freely give the five best he had to have the others insured from this disease. If an exigency exists, said the speaker, then prompt action is demanded imperatively, but if there is no exigency, then no action is necessary, and he thought it was just as well to have a law to cover the whole ground at first as last.

Mr. STOUGHTON said the reason he opposed the passage of the bill in the House of Representatives was, that he considered it defective, and not what the exigency demanded. It provided for no penalty in case information was not given to the authorities, nor for any purifying of barns or places where diseased cattle had been kept. It gave a man owning diseased cattle his own time in which to make complaint, and in a disease such as pleuro-pneumonia this was wrong, and then it left it optional with the Selectmen whether to kill all the cattle, or only the worst ones, and, as these Boards in many instances consisted of five, there would be a diversity of opinion among the members, thus causing delay, and consequently danger.

Col. HEARD said the Committee on Agriculture were divided in opinion in regard to the enactment of a general law on this subject, but that the whole committee were in favor of a special act to meet the few cases now known. The parties owning the diseased cattle had pledged themselves to the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture that they would put their cattle at a fair valuation, and he thought the bill ought to be passed at once.

Mr. BUCKMINSTER, of Boston, spoke in favor of a special commission being appointed to destroy cattle affected with pleuro-pneumonia as being preferable to the Board of Agriculture or the Selectmen of towns, who had enough to attend to without this.

Mr. C. L. FLINT, Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, said he was sure the enormity of the evil was not known to the members of the Legislature, as, was it understood thoroughly, he felt satisfied twenty-four hours would not elapse be-

fore efficient action was taken to crush the disease. He said that the worst features were now exhibiting themselves, and that since the disease had first broken out here, he had given much time to its study, and from correspondence abroad and personal examination here, it was positively the pleuro-pneumonia of Europe, and there was no cure for it. The recent cases here show that although an animal may appear to be recovering, and in some cases appear to be well, it still possesses the elements of the disease, which is liable to cause its death at any time.

The bill proposed in the Legislature had a provision in relation to quarantining animals that were supposed to have been exposed to infection, but, the speaker asked, who would drink the milk, or eat the butter or cheese, or even the beef of any cattle even supposed to have been exposed? It was folly to suppose that a cow would be good for anything among those who entertained the slightest suspicion that she had been exposed. There had only been two cases in which the disease had been brought to this country,—the case of Mr. Chenery, and a large cattle breeder in New Jersey, who when he found the disease to exist among his herd, sacrificed from $8,000 to $10,000, by killing off those affected, and thus stopped it at once. This, said Mr. Flint, is not a matter that solely concerns the farmer, as all are anxious for the speedy extermination of the plague, and prompt action on the part of the Legislature was demanded for the protection of the consumer as well as of that of the producer.

A farmer from Andover said that he had come to the city, to ascertain what action the Legislature were going to take, and expressed his surprise that none had yet been taken to stay the disease. He spoke of the dread his neighbors had of the disease coming there, and said that even now the value of stock was depreciating from the dread of the disease spreading.

Mr. HOWARD, of Boston stated that although this disease had been prevalent on the European continent for a century, it only first showed itself in the British Isles in 1841, and then in Ireland, but at that time there was no country in the world so well provided with a force to resist the disease, as there were graduates from the London and Edinburgh Veterinary Colleges all over the country, who had given the subject special attention, and so the disease had never spread there as elsewhere. Mr. Howard closed his remarks by alluding to the case of the calf mentioned by Mr. Walker, saying that if such an occurrence had really taken place, the disease becomes doubly alarming, and it was necessary that the case should be inquired into by veterinarians, so as to see whether the disease was constitutionally hereditary in cattle.

For the New England Farmer.

LAWTON BLACKBERRY, ONCE MORE.

MR. EDITOR:—I supposed I had done writing upon the Lawton blackberry, but will say a few words more, as I think by so doing light may be so shadowed forth as to show that you and your contributors, although seeming to disagree in several particulars, are severally in the right. I will quote a few lines from the *Country Gentleman*. "The New Rochelle (Lawton) blackberry is variable in the flavor of its fruit; sometimes sweet, and at others quite acid. We have not yet determined what influence generally produces this difference." So you see mine may be sweet and your's sour, and still both Lawton.

Mr. Bassett has come to a correct conclusion. My axes are all ground; but if they were not, and I wished to "set them on edge," I would try and get some of his sour fruit. I would say to him that I am well acquainted with wild varieties, as they grow both in Vermont and Massachusetts. I know many of them to be very fine indeed, but have seen none that would not suffer in comparison with what I have raised as the Lawton. I raise only a very few—not having room—but should they prove as good the coming season, as they were the last two, I shall be most happy to give all incredulous persons "a taste," if not too numerous. G. W. H.

New Bedford, 2nd mo. 18, 1860.

REMARKS.—Thank you, sir. Hope we shall taste them.

For the New England Farmer.

LEAD PIPE FOR CONDUCTING WATER.

MR. EDITOR:—Your correspondent of Billerica, in the *Farmer* of Jan. 28, asks for information in relation to the best kind of pipe to convey water through, and says, if the water was soft, he should use lead.

Now as I happen to know something by rather dear experience in relation to lead pipe for conveying water for culinary purposes, I have thought it my duty to give the little knowledge I have obtained in that direction, for the benefit of him, and others who wish to convey water to their dwellings. Some 17 years ago I conceived the plan of bringing water into my sink by pipe and pump, from a spring some 200 feet distant; accordingly I made inquiry for the cheapest and best kinds, and was informed that lead was the best, for several reasons, but having previously learned that lead was poisonous, I hesitated; but those best informed, whom I consulted, said that the manufacturers had improved it, and made it safe, by coating the inside with tin. My fears being silenced, I sent to Boston, procured the pipe, laid down and have used it until recently. The water is pure and of the softest kind, and yet I have lost my health and nearly lost my speech, and the most scientific and experienced physicians, that I have consulted, attribute the cause of my disease to the use of that water, and say that soft water will act on lead much more than hard water, and though it be tinned, there is liable to be places that are not covered, and that it is not safe in any water, and that it acts differently on different individuals, but that on some persons it has no bad

effect. In my case it has been so slow, that notwithstanding my fears, and notwithstanding all that has been said in the *Farmer* of its deleterious effects, (and I have been a constant reader of it since its first publication,) and notwithstanding my health has been gradually failing for several years, yet I, nor the physicions whom I consulted, were aware of the cause, until paralysis seized my organs of speech.

Now I intend, should I be permitted to live till spring, to use wood, and I wish for information, through the colums of your valuable paper.

1. What kind of wood is best?
2. What size is best?
3. What size of bore is suitable for a common house pump, and
4. If it is best to peel or let the bark remain on?

Any other information upon the subject will be gratefully received.

To return to the lead pipe. It is being extensively used, and the public needs more scientific information upon the subject, and I hope some of your correspondents, who have the information and ability to express it, will give it, for the good of the public. A READER OF THE FARMER.

Dayton, Me., Feb., 1860.

REMARKS.—We have no sufficiently accurate facts to communicate to our correspondent, but earnestly hope some of our friends who have the requsite information will give it, as it is a subject of much importance.

EXTRACTS AND REPLIES.

PRESERVING BEAN POLES—CHINESE SUGAR CANE SEED—TRANSPLANTING CURRANT BUSHES.

I wish to know if you can give a cheap and convenient method of preparing bean poles, so as not to rot in the ground?

Where, and what price, can Chinese sugar cane seed be obtained?

What is the best time for transplanting currant bushes? INQUIRER.

Coventry, Vt., 1860.

REMARKS.—In the *Monthly Farmer* for February, 1860, we gave a recipe for preserving posts, stakes, bean-poles, &c., from Mr. R. G. Pardee, as follows:

"One pound of blue vitriol (sulphuric acid and copper) to twenty quarts of water. Dissolve the vitriol with boiling water, and then add the remainder.

"The end of the stick is then dipped into the solution, and left to stand four or five days; for shingles three or four days will answer, and for posts six inches square, ten days. Care is to be taken that the saturation takes place in a metal vessel or keyed box, for the reason that any barrel will be shrunk by the operation so as to leak. Instead of expanding an old cask, as other liquids do, this shrinks them."

Chinese sugar cane seed may be found at the seed stores.

Transplant currant bushes in the spring, as soon as the frost is out, and the ground becomes warm.

FOOT AIL, OR FOUL IN CATTLE.

When the foot begins to discharge, apply a little red precipitate to the part affected, once or twice a day, which will very soon produce a cure.

TO CURE MILK FEVER.

If a cow at the time of coming in is attacked with this complaint, or is very weak, give her half a pailful or more of cider, with some wheat or rye bran stirred into it. If she will not drink it readily, force it down. Give it twice a day, or more.

REMEDY FOR BLACK LEG.

Give to a cow 4 oz. of gunpowder, to a calf less, in warm milk. Repeat the dose as circumstances may require.

Another.—Give half an ounce of saltpetre in extreme cases, otherwise one-fourth. Give it dissolved in a mess, or in water, twice a day. When the disease has advanced, so as to have the blood settle in the legs, make an incision in the legs, put in a little pulverized saltpetre, and bandage over it.

TO CURE GARGET.

Give in a mess, one teaspoonful, or one-fourth of an ounce of saltpetre pulverized, once or twice a day, for two days, or a piece of garget root, green, one inch square, chopped fine, and given as directed above. If no better, repeat the dose.

New Haven, Ct., 1860. C. A.

REMARKS.—We give the above recipes, more because they come from a highly respectable source, than because we have any great confidence in them. The well-read physician or chemist can only tell whether they are not absolutely dangerous. We believe ten sick animals are cured by kind care where one is by medicine. If medicine is necessary, the advice of some person who understands its nature and effects, becomes necessary with it.

—

CORN FOR FODDER.

Can you, or any of your subscribers, tell me the best time to sow corn for fodder, and also the quantity per acre? A YOUNG FARMER.

REMARKS.—Put in some as soon as the ground is suitable in the spring. In two weeks a little more, and so on until the middle of June. It requires about *four* bushels of seed for an acre to sow in drills.

—

WORK ON SHEEP.

Will you inform me of a small work on the raising of sheep and cattle, or on sheep alone; something adapted to the South, (Texas,) if there is such a one published? J. H. B.

Boston, 1860.

REMARKS.—"The American Shepherd," by MORRELL, is the title of a good work on Sheep, and it is sold at the book-stores in Boston.

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BLACK SPANISH AND LEGHORN FOWLS.

Will some one inform me where I can get Black Spanish and Leghorn fowls?

Montpelier, Vt., 1860. B. TOWN.

THE DISEASE AMONG CATTLE.

I have read in the Boston *Journal* about a disease among the cattle in North Brookfield, and in other places, describing it as commencing with a heavy cough settled on the lungs. I believe it is nothing else but the lung fever, so called in my native country, Holland. So far as I recollect, there is no remedy for it; but our farmers at home use as a preventive, by advice of the veterinarian school, rusty old iron, put in the water-troughs, not letting the cattle drink any other drink, and separating the sick ones immediately from the herd. Farmers should bury the cattle whole, not using the hide for any purpose, as it was proved that the disease had been carried to different places by the hides alone. Great precaution should be taken not to let diverse cattle come together. CHARLES DEWOLFF.

East Hubbardston, March 17, 1860.

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PEAR ON THE THORN.

In reply to "S. P. W.," Dorrville, R. I., as to whether the thorn is a suitable stock upon which to graft the pear, we can only give the testimony of others, having never resorted to it for that purpose. Downing says it makes a very good stock when grafted a little below the surface. It is also good on strong clayey soils, as on such stocks the pear may be grown with success, when it would not otherwise thrive. It would also come a little earlier into bearing, than on the pear stock.

We cannot say where the pear seedlings may be found.

—

THE OKRA PLANT.

I hear much speculation amongst the old folks concerning a new production styled "Okra," which the New York papers eulogize highly. They cannot ascertain if it be fish, flesh or fowl. Some suppose it to be a grain, others a substitute for the potato—while others, again, conjecture it may be a fruit, resembling, possibly, the tomato. Now, Mr. Editor, can you shed any light on this subject? Do you know aught of the *animal*, its nature or uses? Can the Old Bay State produce it? Is it propagated by seeds, slips or bulbs? Can they be obtained in your city, and what would be their probable price?

A SUBSCRIBER'S DAUGHTER.

Pembroke, Mass., March, 1860.

REMARKS.—Okra, *Hibiscus esculentis*. It was introduced from the West Indies into the United States. The pods are gathered green and used in soups. The pods are filled with seeds and a mucilage of a bland and nutritious quality.

—

ESSEX PIGS.

I saw to-day, at the stall of Mr. C. Tilton, of South Danvers, in Salem market, two pigs, unitedly weighing 1403 lbs., varying only about 20 lbs. in their weight. They were stated to be 23 months old. They were fed by farmer Bates, of Danvers, who does everything in the best manner, being reputed the best farmer in the town. In reply to the inquiry how they were made to grow so well, I was answered, by the best of feed, and taking care to keep their appetites good. When tired of corn or meal, oats or some other grain was cooked for their use. I was told they were estimated to be worth $140. I have never seen handsomer pork. J. W. P.

March 12, 1860.

—

PASTURE GRASSES.

I have a field of fifteen or twenty acres of pine plain land, so called, of a rather gravelly soil, which I wish to seed for pasture. Will you inform me what is the best kind of grass seed to sow? C. S.

Putney, Vt., 1860.

REMARKS.—We are inclined to believe that it will be doubtful whether any kind should be sown without manure and cultivation. Perhaps you intend to add these. When this is done, sow a mixture of Timothy, Orchard, Meadow Foxtail, Kentucky Blue, Rough-stalked Meadow, Meadow Fescue and Redtop and White Clover.

—

ASSESSMENT OF TAXES.

"R. B." has my thanks for admitting that I was right in saying that all property should be assessed "equally and proportionately" wherever it may be found. There is no difference between us as to the principle to be applied; the only difference is as to the application of it—that is, the intelligence and honesty of assessors. This being so, can there be any hope of a correction of errors by a modification of the law? I trow not. P.

Feb. 25, 1860.

—

A FARMER'S BAROMETER.

I read with much pleasure the article on "A Farmer's Barometer," in the last number of the *Farmer*.

Will you inform me of the price, and the source whence it may be obtained, and oblige,

Grafton, Feb., 1860. W. G. S.

REMARKS.—The price will be from $7 to $40. We do not know that they are offered for sale in this market yet—but probably will be soon.

"O. B. Lee" will please observe the above.

—

CHESTNUT SAWDUST.

Is the sawdust from chestnut wood good for fertilizing purposes, either to be spread upon the surface, plowed under, or for bedding stock?

Shutesbury, Vt., 1860. E. L. PRATT.

REMARKS.—We are not able to say of how much value the saw-dust is from chestnut wood; we should use quantities of it for bedding, and as an absorbent, if we had it at hand, but should first have it thoroughly dried.

—

MACHINE FOR OPENING DRAINS FOR TILE.

Will you inform me through your paper of the best machine for opening drains for tile?

Greenfield, March, 1860. P. D. M.

REMARKS.—J. J. Thomas's, Albany, N. Y.

USES AND VALUE OF MUCK---II.

OF WHAT MUCK IS COMPOSED, AND HOW DEPOSITED.

THE substratum, in one of the valleys to which we adverted in a former article, where the muck is from four to eight feet deep, and of the best quality, is to this day a compact mass of partially decayed logs; as these approach the surface, the decay is more perfect, and where one is found in a slanting position, its upper portion has assumed the form of the other materials around it. But, generally, the muck in these pent-up valleys is entirely free from logs and roots. We conclude, therefore, that the accumulation has been gradual, occupying periods very remote, and is made up of annual deposits of grasses, shrubs, lichens and mosses, with slight but constant contributions of mineral matter from the hills together with immense quantities of the leaves of the forests which for successive ages had been shed upon their sides. When the superincumbent masses are removed, and atmospheric influences find their way to the submerged logs and roots, they, in turn, will become more thoroughly decomposed and fitted for action on the surface.

In the natural peat or muck swamps the process must have been a different one, as partially decayed logs and roots are usually found, and these are in addition to the materials enumerated above as composing the muck of valleys. These swamps were probably once destroyed by fires, prostrated by hurricanes, or touched by the "tooth of Time," after having come to maturity, and gradually crumbled to the ground, retaining vast quantities of moisture, and forming the first root-beds for a rank growth of unnumbered shrubs and grasses.

OF THE DIFFERENT QUALITIES OF MUCK.

It will be seen from statements already made, that muck of all qualities is mainly composed of vegetable substances. These, however, are affected by the particular location in which it is found, by the kind of vegetables of which it is composed, by floods, and in some degree by mineral influences. We have preferred to call it by the popular name *muck*, which means a mass of decaying vegetable matter, because that term is at once understood by those who are principally engaged in its use. It has received, however, by scientific inquirers, several other names, and among them that which is most common is *humus*, the Latin word for earth or mould. Stockhardt says this term is identical with decaying organic matter. In this acceptation it has for many years been known and valued in agriculture. Vegetable mould (humus) is the term applied to the upper black or brown layer of earth, which has been formed in forests by the decay of the leaves which fall off; the dark, fat, arable soil, containing much partially decomposed organic [vegetable] matter, is said to be rich in humus, while the dry, light soil, in which it is wanting, is said to be poor in humus. The farmer knows that, contrary to what happens in his woodlands, the humus diminishes in his fields, and so much the more rapidly as the crops are more abundant, and he knows that fields rich in humus are, as a general rule, more fertile than those which are poor in humus. * * * * Accordingly, by the general term *humus* we must understand a mass of brown, decaying matter, partly soluble, partly insoluble, partly acid, partly neutral, which, with the uninterrupted presence of air, water and heat, may be still further decomposed, and thereby *carbonic acid* and water evolved. Carbonic acid and water are indispensable to the nourishment of plants; hence, in a soil rich in humus, the plants will grow more vigorously, because they find there, and can absorb by their rootlets, more of these two nutritive substances than they could in a soil poor in humus. Humus exerts, moreover, a beneficial influence upon vegetation, because it loosens the soil by the development of carbonic acid, because it possesses the power of attracting water from the air, and of retaining it for a long time, and because, by means of the acids contained in it, it is able to abstract from the air, and also from manure, the third means of nutriment for plants,—ammonia.

In the extensive low muck swamps, the quality of the material is often widely different; some parts being traversed by running streams which wash away the rich soluble portions and leave but the coarser fibres, and others composed of particular kinds of wood which impregnate the whole mass with acids that are unfavorable to field crops. A striking illustration of this may frequently be seen when these swamps are in the process of being drained, and long ridges of muck are thrown up on the edges of the ditch and allowed to remain undisturbed. If thrown up in the autumn or winter, they will present particular points the following summer, covered with a rank growth of weeds or grasses, and indicating great vitality in the muck below, while other portions remain entirely bare, or at best are partially covered with stunted fungi or moss. The spots barren of vegetation are sometimes covered with a whitish-yellow substance, light and flocculent, or with sulphate of iron. Much of the latter description spread upon pasture, or mowing lands, has

been known to prevent the growth of grass for many years in succession; and when plowed and planted, aquatic grasses and plants spring up in profusion, and can only be eradicated by a most careful and expensive process of cultivation. Indeed, cases have come under our own knowledge, where the cost of cultivating a corn crop has been doubled by the introduction of these plants in using this kind of muck before it had been seasoned or composted; and it was only by high manuring, constantly stirring the ground, and the most careful culture, that they were finally subdued. If a few plants only are suffered to come to maturity, their seeds will find their way to every wet spot on the high or low lands in their vicinity, and before the cultivator is fully aware of the evil, an inroad of intruders will be established upon his premises, which he will find it exceedingly difficult to eject. The farmer must exercise the nicest discrimination in regard to the matter of quality in the use of muck, or he will be led into errors which may require years of patient toil to correct.

For the New England Farmer.

DISEASED APPLE TREES, &c.

MR. EDITOR:—In your December number of the monthly *Farmer* of 1859, you did me the favor to publish a communication which I sent you respecting the condition of my apple trees. I have been much gratified by the interest manifested in the subject by several individuals who have replied to it, giving their opinions of the cause of the trouble. There is a wide difference in those opinions, and with all due deference to the better judgment of the writers of the articles, I think no one of the theories satisfactorily accounts for the cause that has so deeply, and I fear fatally affected my trees. Mr. Bassett, of Ashfield, in an article in this same number, expresses the opinion that the bark borer is the enemy I am suffering from. In your number for March, 1860, he has an article on the subject, in which he refers to your Sandy River correspondent, a slight mistake, I presume, for Still River, [No, *Sandy* River is right.—*Ed.*] in which he holds to the same opinion, if I understand his meaning. I cannot see, on this theory, how to account for the circumstance of the trees being invariably affected on the south side, and the black, scorched appearance of the bark the whole distance from the lower limbs to the roots of the trees, an operation too extensive I should think, for any borer to perform. I will here add some facts in relation to the age and size of my trees about which I was not sufficiently explicit in my communication, and for want of which knowledge "O. W. D.," of Goshen, Vt., was led into a misapprehension in his article in your February number. My trees were set out where they now stand in the spring of 1844, and eight years afterward in the spring of 1852, finding that the fruit was not what I expected, I had them engrafted, at which time a large part of the top was cut away. The elevated position of the trees exposed them to the action of the wind, which has given them an inclination toward the northeast, and also the loss of nearly the entire top by engrafting has left the body exposed to the full action of the sun. The grafts, although they took and grew well, have not attained to nearly the extent of top of the original tree, affording very little shade. The size of the trees, which are now sixteen years old from the nursery, is from five to six inches in diameter, and some of the spaces left bare by the loss of the bark are one and a half to two feet long and four to five inches wide, and present appearances indicate a further extension of the parts affected. With a knowledge of the facts, "O. W. D." will perceive that his views are not applicable to my case, except, perhaps, in the application of manure to the trees and the cultivation of the land, and the article of grafting wax to be applied to the parts affected, and that it seems to me would be rather an expensive article to be used on so extensive a scale as would be required. Is there not some other article, less expensive and more easily prepared, that would do as well for the purpose? I propose to close over the parts affected with something, and shall feel obliged for any information on this point.

Mr. Whipple's theory, of Lowell, is the agency of heat and cold causing the trouble complained of. Looking to all the circumstances of the case, cannot a satisfactory solution be found in the agency of the sun alone, causing all the mischief; to exposure of the parts affected by injudiciously destroying too great a share of the tops of the trees at the time of engrafting? I will leave these suggestions with the single remark, that if my unfortunate experience should prove a warning to any to avoid the mischievous practice of too much pruning, especially on the side of the trees most exposed to the action of the sun, I shall feel gratified. I hope to hear again from some of your correspondents who may be able to shed some new light on the subject. L. B. H.

Still River, March 20, 1860.

THE ONION MAGGOT.—Mr. David Fisher, of Walpole, N. H., succeeded, last year, in raising a good crop, after having had his onions destroyed by maggots for a number of years previously. He prepared the ground carefully, plowing, manuring, raking, &c.; he then covered the surface with old pea brush, and other combustible materials, and burnt them. Then sowed the seed. On his bed, 12 by 3 feet, he placed three bowls about half full of sweetened water, as soon as the onions were one or two inches high. Each morning the surface of the water was cleared of the flies and insects that had been caught, adding a little water occasionally. On part of his bed he raised some excellent onion seed. We find his statement in the *Boston Cultivator.*

WHEAT CROPS.—Mr. G. W. WILSON writes us from Fitzwilliam, N. H., that he has raised wheat on his farm for forty years in succession, and has never failed of getting a good crop, the largest of which was 28 bushels an acre.

For the New England Farmer.

RENOVATING WORN-OUT LANDS.

MR. EDITOR:—Among the many pleasing evidences of that "interesting revival" in agriculture, referred to in the *Farmer* of the 11th ult., is the increasing attention to the subject of this article. *How shall we reclaim our worn-out fields and pastures, and bring them back to their former fertility?* has become one of the great questions of the times. Any facts which will shed light upon it, I may reasonably suppose, will be acceptable to an increasing number of your readers.

During the past summer I visited the south shore of the east end of Long Island. Having resided there during the years of 1833–6, I was struck by the manifest improvement in the farms. It may be extravagant, but it seems to me that, since that time, they had improved at least *twenty-five per cent.*, although in the main, I think then, as now, the farming of Long Island would compare favorably with our own. To inquiries, as to the method adopted for improving their farms, I found that the farmers there depended more than we do on generous manuring. To the question, whether they placed great reliance on seaweed and fish, as manures, they replied that although used to some extent, as formerly, they had less confidence in their permanent good results. Their chief resources were their "barn-yards" and "hog pens," with a liberal use of ashes and bone dust, although their ashes must be obtained from Connecticut and their "bone" from Boston. Peruvian guano is employed to some extent as a stimulant, but not very generally used. As the subject of the "profits of farming" is now attracting so much attention, I presume some light might be shed upon it, if the *facts*, developed by the experience of these Long Island farmers could be fully understood. And it should be born in mind that they are not "gentlemen farmers," in the usual sense of that cant and much abused phrase, (although in its true and legitimate signification they are eminently so,) but hard working men, who are obliged to get their living and make their money from their farms.

But I took my pen to give some account of the experiments of a friend of mine, Col. B. H. FOSTER, of So. Hampton, in renovating some old and worn-out pasture lands; of which a lot of fifty acres was bought by his father for $70. This land he describes, as "so run down by what we call the skinning process, that it produced little or nothing, had become overrun with moss, whortleberry and barberry bushes, and was not considered worth fencing." He commenced the process some eight years ago, and has succeeded in reclaiming some 20 acres. His "object has been," he says, "to make the land productive without an unwarrantable out-lay for manure, * * * by plowing in whatever [he] could get to grow upon it, and applying a small quantity of stimulating manure, that would produce a crop, and pay for the manure, labor and expenses, and leave the land in an improved and better condition."

Acting, however, without the benefit of others' experience, he has been compelled to try experiments for himself. From these trials and experiments, he has arrived at the following conclusions:

1. It is best, by planting with corn or potatoes, one or two years, to pulverize the soil. His plan is to sow broadcast 150 pounds of Peruvian guano per acre on the sward, as near the time of plowing as possible—indeed, to sow *as* they plow. He then applies four two-horse loads of good manure from the hog-pen, if for corn, in the hill. He thinks it best to pursue this course two years in succession. The following spring, plow as soon as the season will admit, apply broadcast 25 bushels of bone-dust, sow 3½ bushels of oats, harrow thoroughly, then sow 6 pounds of clover seed, and roll it smooth. Take off the crop of oats, and if wanted, let it be used as pasture in the fall. The next spring the clover is allowed to grow as if for mowing, till the middle of June; a roller is passed over it, and then it is plowed in, the furrows pressed down by a roller, and then 1½ bushels of corn is sown broadcast, and thoroughly harrowed in. When it has attained its greatest height and bulk, or when it is fairly "spindled," it is then broken down by a roller and plowed under. By a very simple contrivance of a chain attached to the whippletree and one of the handles of the plow, near the ground, the whole is completely covered. There are then, if the experiment is successful, two heavy green crops plowed in during the second season; of course adding a large amount of vegetable matter to the ground so treated. During the first season, the crop of oats is taken off, and this helps to meet the expense of the experiment. The same process may be repeated during the next two seasons; or other crops may be put in.

2. "After trying buckwheat, oats, rye, corn and clover," he says, "through a succession of seasons, I have come to the conclusion that clover and corn, as above described, is decidedly best for the soil of Long Island."

3. *Cost.*—Col. F. gives the following as a rough estimate of the profit and loss account of an acre treated as above described:

		Dr.
To 150 lbs. of guano	$4,50	
To 4 loads of manure	6,00	
To plowing	1,50	
To harrowing	75	
To planting	2,75	
To hoeing and cultivating	2,50	
To cutting and gathering	4,00	$22,00
		Cr.
By 40 bushels of corn, at 75c	$30,00	
By 2 tons corn stalks	6,00	$36,00
Profits first year		$14,00
Profits second year		14,00—$28,00

THIRD YEAR.		Dr.
To 25 bushels of bone dust, 41c	$10,25	
To plowing and harrowing	2,00	
To harvesting and threshing	3,00	
To 3½ bushels of oats for seed	1,58	
To 6 pounds of clover seed	60	$17,43
		Cr.
By 45 bushels of oats at 45c	$20,25	
By 1 ton of straw	6,00	$26,25
Profits of third year		8,82
Profits for three years		$36,82

He says: I have given in the above estimate as small a crop as I have ever taken under the process here described. Several years my yield of corn has been at the rate of 50 bushels to the acre, and my general yield of oats has been at the rate of 50 bushels to the acre.

In this simple statement of *facts*, we have materials afforded for an answer to the question with which I commenced this article. And why shall

not the farmers of the Commonwealth and New England go and do likewise? No great outlay of capital or labor is required. Would it not be better for our farmers to plant fewer acres, manure more highly what they do plant, and subject the balance to a treatment like that above described? The crops would be equal, while the whole would be left in better condition.

Franklin, March 3, 1860. S. H.

For the New England Farmer.

USE AND APPLICATION OF MANURE.

MR. EDITOR:—Having seen the offer of the State Agricultural Society for the best results from certain experiments with manure, and not calculating to try for the premium myself, because I should be obliged to waste more manure than the value of the premium, and having tried the experiments required, years since, to my full satisfaction, I therefore thought I would state some of the many experiments which I have tried. My father always plowed his grass land in the spring, and then put on his winter manure and harrowed it in, and when I came on the stage, I followed the same course for some years, though very much dissatisfied with the manure lying on top of the ground to dry up and waste.

Some fifteen or twenty years since, I commenced some experiments with my winter manure; I took a field of about two acres of grass land in the spring, and put on the manure from my barn cellar, at the rate of thirty-two loads to the acre; on to one-half before it was plowed, and on to the other half after it was plowed, and harrowed it in, then planted with corn, without any manure of any kind in the hill. The result was, as much corn where I plowed the manure under, as where I put it on top, and twice as many turnips, though the corn looked badly where I plowed it under the fore part of the season. I next tried six acres in the same way, with the same result. I have tried experiments with manure, and used it in almost every possible way, and have come to the conclusion, that the only true way to use long manure, is to plow it under at the depth of from six to nine inches, according to the soil; and I have invariably found that I got as much corn, double the turnips, and a great deal better after-crops of wheat, oats and grass. I think I have improved my grass lands, since I have plowed my manure under, at least twenty per cent. No one has seen any coarse manure left on the top of the ground on my farm for the last ten or fifteen years, and I would recommend, after occasionally throwing in a little loam among the manure in the cellar through the winter to soak up the urine, not to disturb it, until it is loaded to carry into the field, and then plow it under as quick as possible.

GEORGE M. BARRETT.

Concord, Mass., March 17, 1860.

OHIO RADISH SEED.—A correspondent of the *Prairie Farmer* says that radish seed that has been kept six years or more, will produce radishes of a better quality than new seed.—*Genesee Farmer.*

THE OLD FARM-HOUSE.

In a little grove of shade trees,
Stands a farm-house, brown and old,
With a wealth of vines around it,
Gemmed with flowers of red and gold;
By the path that makes a circle
Of white sand around the lawn,
Grow sweet Timothy and clover,
Rosy as a June-day dawn.

Around its door pale morning-glories,
Jump-up johnnies, dahlias, pinks,
Cluster—concentrated beauties,
Married by a thousand links;
Links of love, the works of nature's
Mystery of handicraft;
Links of glory, through which fairy
Argosies of perfume waft.

And the gate that swings before it,
And the fence as white as snow,
Stand on variegated cushions,
Which the sun-fire sets aglow;
Crowning them with many colors—
Yellow, purple, green and blue—
As if rainbows there had fallen,
Melted into rarest dew.

On its roof the greenest mosses,
Catch the shadows from the trees;
On its sides red honeysuckles
Make their courtesies to the breeze;
And the ever-nervous willows,
Standing near the garden's bound,
Throw a web of shade fantastic
On the clover-mantled ground.

O'er the well an arch of grape-vines,
Formed with heaven's directed care,
Chains the shadows to the water,
Making cool the summer air:
And a tiny church, its steeple
Piercing through a bower of leaves,
Is a sure and sacred refuge
Where the wren her carol weaves.

For the New England Farmer.

ORDER IS ECONOMY.

Very few there are, in any kind of business, who make a gain of money, without habits of order in their business. Some seem inconsiderate enough to suppose that orderly habits are more important to professional men, merchants, mechanics, &c., than to farmers. I think very differently.

With farmers in general, enough depends upon the question of order about the barn and house to decide the fate of each one, as to wealth or poverty. The great majority of country farmers, who become the positive owners of their homesteads, in New England, make slow, but steady advances in property. At first, their increase of property is a very small amount yearly. And this small amount, at first, is really the procuring cause of the larger increase which may follow. Without the small increase at first, the larger increase to follow is entirely out of the question. And this small increase, and oftentimes much more, depends upon strict order about the house. Again, it depends upon strict order about the barn and tool-house; and again, it depends on strict order about the farm.

The positive advancement of most farmers, in property, is within the line of $50 yearly, if not within that of $25. If a man can, upon his own

farm, make a clear advance in property of $50 per year, he may soon become an independent farmer. If he can make a clear advance of $25 yearly, he has no reason for discouragement. He will have no reason to want to turn shoemaker, and have to "strike" at his boss. Meagre indeed must be that house, and limited that family, where strict order will not be worth more than $25 yearly. In a house where nothing knows its positive place, where you can find nothing without hauling everything over, where every matter is without definite regulations, where arrangements are not a part of a positive system, the waste of time, the waste of substance, the unnecessary wear and tear, with the frettings and frustrations consequent, will soon measure a dead loss of $100. And all such loss is positively worse than so much money thrown away.

The loss of only ten minutes of time per day, in 312 days, amounts to more than five full days, of ten hours each. At $1,50 per diem, it would amount to $7,80. A large portion of laboring men are losers of more than five times ten minutes per day, in time, for want of strict "order about the house." Add to this, the other evils and losses consequent upon a want of strict order, and it will be quite sufficient to keep a poor man poor. Farmers's wives, if not some other men's wives, may be the mothers of prosperity or poverty, to their households.

Order is economy, at the barn, and all over the farm.

Mr. Editor, I perceive that I have got hold of a stump which has a great many roots that might be pulled: and I am not sure but they would be dry roots to your readers; and so, that I be not further tedious to you and them, I will finish this, with a wish that some one who is capable of doing good service on a dry topic, will examine the subject, item by item. COMINGS.

Lee, N. H., 1860.

MULES IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

One of the most striking characteristics of the mule is his aversion to the ass, and the pride he takes in his relationship to the horse; which instincts are met by obtrusiveness in the ass, and by indifference in the horse. If an ass at any time —urged by the vanity peculiar to its race as related to the mule—happens to fall in with a drove of mules, he will, in all probability, be kicked and lamed by his proud relatives. A horse, on the contrary, takes a distinguished position in a drove of the mules. The latter crowd around him, and follow his movements, exhibiting a violent jealousy, each trying to stand nearest to their high-bred relative. The instinct is employed to keep together the droves of mules, on a journey or at pasture, by putting a mare to the drove, with a bell round her neck, and called the bell-mare. This animal is led day and night by a cord, and the whole drove is thus kept under control, and will not leave their queen. It is, therefore, very difficult to separate the drove. The man who leads the mare is instructed, in case of an attack from the Indians, to leap upon the back of the animal, and take refuge in the wagon encampment, whither the drove is sure to follow him. Even if the Indians succeed in separating any from the drove, they find it difficult to carry them off. The animals incessantly attempt to turn back, and the travellers are thus enabled to overtake the robbers, and recover the stolen animals. The Indians, in consequence, use every means to get possession of the mare; and if they succeed in this, the whole drove is lost to the owners. If several horses are in a drove of mules, the danger is that the latter becomes dispersed; and this is the reason that, in these journeys, saddle-horses are not allowed to go loose, but are led by a cord.—*Froebel.*

TRANSACTIONS OF THE MASS. SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING AGRICULTURE.

The Second Part of Volume I. of the new series of publications of this society is issued in the form of a pamphlet, which, together with the first Part, make 300 pages. The first impressions of the word "Transactions," as connected with a Society, might not suggest to all minds the character of the contents of this publication, which instead of being a Journal of Proceedings, are three Essays: The first, some sixty-four pages, is entitled, "Agricultural Survey of Middlesex County, by JOSEPH REYNOLDS, M. D.," of Concord; the second, some forty-two pages, is entitled "Agricultural Education, by HENRY F. FRENCH;" and the third, some thirty pages, is entitled "Agricultural Miscellany, by R. S. FAY," the Secretary of the society, the main topic of which is "Grass and Pasture Land;" and specifications of an offer of "Premiums for experiments with Manures," amounting to $225. The experiments to be rewarded by this liberal appropriation are the same as those required by the Board of Agriculture of the County Societies of the State, according to the document from the Board, published in the January number of the monthly *Farmer* for 1860, p. 10.

AGRICULTURAL SURVEY OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY.

This paper, by Dr. Joseph Reynolds, is illustrated by a Geological Township Map of the county, and discusses its Geography, Geology, Meteorology; Changes that have taken place in the Husbandry of the county; Present Staple Products of the county, and methods of culture, with remarks on the Breeds and Management of Cows; Marketing Milk; on Grass Culture, and Restoring Pasture Land; on the culture of Indian Corn, Potatoes and Grains; Fruit, Root Crops, Market Gardening, &c. To those acquainted with the industry and judgment of Dr. Reynolds, the foregoing statement of topics will suggest a good idea of the value and interest of this essay. The writer says, that he believes this is the first attempt to present in a connected view an account of the agriculture of an entire county in the State. If the Society shall be able to publish a similar "Agricultural Survey" of each county in the State,

its "New Series" of Transactions will present, in a most convenient form, a wide range of facts, which are now so scattered in volumes of history, in scientific works, and in the unwritten present, as to be, in many particulars, quite inaccessible to the ordinary inquirer.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

Mr. French inquires, First, Who are to be educated? Secondly, What is to be taught? Thirdly, By what means? These points are separately considered and fully discussed. Whatever diversity of opinions may exist, as to the soundness of the reasonings, or as to the practicability of the conclusions of this essay, we think all will agree in thanking the old Massachusetts Society for the Promotion of Agriculture, for presenting such a readable dissertation on the vexed question of Agricultural Education.

In his first two pages, the writer frees his own limbs from the manacles of European models and examples, and declares, "In vain shall we look abroad for any system adapted to our wants." If he can as easily knock these chains from School Committees and Boards of Managers, we believe that an Agricultural Education such as Massachusetts, and such as the whole country demands, would grow up of itself. Farther, we believe such an education is already growing up, and that for years it has bravely withstood the whirlwind of foreign precedent, which has so industriously blown up the bubbles of American agricultural colleges. Our meaning will be understood by any middle-aged farmer who will contrast the means of agricultural education enjoyed by his grandfather, or father, with those of himself or his children; including by the term "means of education," the books and papers, which are as much educators as the school-masters. Mr. French gives a statement of the present condition of the agricultural college of the great State of New York, chartered in April, 1853, whose buildings are "*to be* erected for 350 students;" of the People's College, near Havana, same State; of the Farmers' High School of Pennsylvania; of the Agricultural College of Michigan; and of one or two Southern institutions of somewhat similar character, and says, that "as yet they furnish no strong evidence that success will attend expensive and magnificent enterprises of this kind."

Although we cannot attempt to give any outline of Mr. French's treatment of the subject, we cannot pass over his remark that "in any plan for Agricultural Schools, which may be adopted, arrangements should be made for the fullest participation by female pupils in their advantages."

His conclusions upon the whole matter are briefly stated in the following propositions:

"1. A system of agricultural education is imperatively called for in Massachusetts.

2. Our common schools form the proper foundation for such a system.

3. Foreign countries furnish us no suitable models for agricultural schools, because of the differences in general education, as well as in the structure of society and government.

4. Existing agricultural colleges in this country furnish no such evidence or promise of success, as to encourage at present, the establishment by us of a large State Institution.

5. A school of Agriculture, with an experimental farm, should be established in each county."

For the New England Farmer.

HOW I PLANT, AND WHY I PLANT POTATOES AS I DO.

I select as dry, porous soil as I have, using no compost dressings of any description, either before or after plowing, which I do in a most thorough manner to the depth of about eight inches; (deeper would be better;) furrow according to variety of potato from two and a half to three feet apart, and five to six inches deep; seed fifteen to eighteen inches from each other, two eyes on a piece, and cover with a plow. If the soil is mellow and free from stones, I use bushes, which is the most expeditious way of covering, and leaves the field smooth for the ox-harrow to pass over it as soon as the potatoes begin to break ground. This harrowing is equal to one hoeing, and most effectually destroys the weeds, without displacing one potato plant in a thousand, if planted at a proper depth. The reason for avoiding rich moist soil and dressings of compost, is, that I feel comparatively secure from the rot. I have not for many years escaped the rot when using compost dressing from cattle or hogs on any soil, and almost invariably have sound potatoes without it, on dry, porous soil, unless I use too much seed in the hill. Several times since the potato disease has prevailed, I have experimented with cut and uncut potatoes, with the same result in every case.

In 1848, I selected some of the largest and soundest potatoes I had, and planted them by the side of others that were cut with two eyes on a piece, all being of the same variety; the result was double the quantity of potatoes at digging time from the large seed, but three-fourths of them diseased, while the others were sound. The same experiment was made the past year with like results, which, of course, satisfied me that it is best for me to plant cut potatoes in preference to whole ones. The reason of this I conceive to be that the disease in some way is developed in the seed planted, and that the sooner you compel the plant to seek for its food from the soil, the better the chance to escape the disease, and harvest a sound crop. With me, wet soils and decomposing manures are fatal to a sound crop of potatees. For the most part I use plaster in the hill, or on the set, but prefer about 200 lbs. of guano mixed with an equal quantity of plaster (to fix the ammonia of the guano) to the acre. This, scattered about the stalks at the second time of hoeing, has usually paid well. I hope this may call out others' experience and theories, so that we may, by comparing one with another, arrive at some positive and useful results. J. COE.

Rochester, March 13, 1860.

For the New England Farmer.

PIPE FOR CONDUCTING WATER.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—I see there is considerable inquiry as to what kind of pipe to use. As I follow the business of laying pipe, I will give my opinion. First see what kind of land it is to be laid in. If it is brimstone land, it will eat the pipe. There is some water that eats boxes of composition, and will not eat lead. Block tin is the best for running water; but for pumps it is worthless, because it is brittle, and will not hold its own shape. I have taken out most all in this vicinity, and put in lead. Where lead will stand I should use it. Wood is good where the land is not heavy. Your correspondent from Maine asks for answers to four questions. 1. What kind of wood to use? I should use pine, if I could get it. I have known spruce to do good service. 2. What size? Anywhere from five to eight inches in diameter. 3. What size bore? For logs 4½ inch bore; for pumps, three inch. 4. Bark on, or off? I think it will not make any odds in the ground; but for wells I should peel the logs; but in all cases they should be laid below frost. There should be iron rings drove round the head ends of the logs to keep them from checking.

If water or land works on the pipe, which you can learn by others in the vicinity, I should abandon it at all events. I know of one case where lead was used, the pipe was consumed, and it was taken out, and iron put in; and the iron soon rusted so as to scale, and filled it full; this was taken out, and last fall, I put in lead, lined with block tin, at a great cost, and I fear it will not be lasting; it seems to be tender. The new article of pipe, made of glass, I know nothing about; if it could be used, I doubt there being any alkali that would operate on the glass. There is one other way in which it is said you can tell whether water will affect lead pipe; it is to take a tumbler of water, and put in lead, and let it stand several days, and you can see if the lead corrodes or not; it is said if it does, you can see it visibly. If block tin cracks, it is impossible to repair it; therefore, I should not use it only in running water. I think your correspondent from Maine is a little mistaken about soft water affecting lead; in all cases where I have repaired eaten pipe and boxes, the women complain of hard water; at any rate it is so in this vicinity. A SUBSCRIBER.

Pottersville, N. H., 1860.

For the New England Farmer.

ASHES AS A MANURE.

Wood ashes are good, on sandy or gravelly soils, where the sub-soil is open, and the surface soil is not heavy and inclined to bake, as the saying is. The more open, sandy and loose the soil is, the more ashes will benefit it. They will make grass grow for a few crops on heavy soil, but they will tend to make the soil heavier, and run into moss. Sand is better for clayey soils than ashes. Leached ashes may as well be spread on grass lands clear; but unleached, they should be mixed with two or three times their bulk of some heavy soil, the more clayey the better, and lie in a heap until the whole mass becomes leavened with the ashes, though not leached through to waste. If salt can be obtained quite cheap, I think it would pay to put in a bushel to ten of ashes. Fifty bushels of ashes, properly applied, is enough for an acre; and on ground to which they are suited, they will ordinarily produce near an extra ton of hay to the acre, for three years, and leave the ground in better condition, than at the time of the application of the ashes. They will in fact produce a permanent change for the better, in sandy soils; but on heavy land to which they are not suited, though they may make a few crops grow better, they are, in the end, an injury. They may be advantageously applied to grain crops, potatoes and corn; but I think, as a general thing, more benefit will be derived from them applied on grass, than any other crop. C. WHITING.

Johnson, Vt., 1860.

REMARKS.—The seed sent with this is, undoubtedly, Hungarian grass seed.

For the New England Farmer.

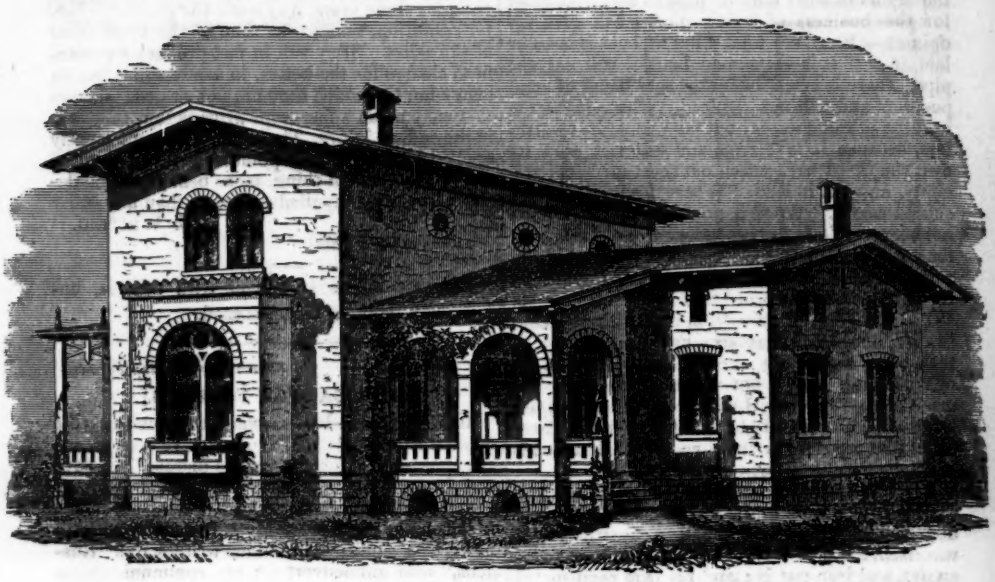
THE CATTLE DISEASE.

MR. EDITOR:—In your valuable journal, (the *N. E. Farmer*,) of the 17th ult., I have been shown a communication on the "cattle disease." I have read it attentively. It is not my custom, sir, to reply to any newspaper articles, unless the name of the writer is affixed. My signature appears to all my communications. When writers, like "Rusticus," who animadvert on my communications, make themselves known, I am always ready to reply, if the case requires it. My reason for being silent, at other times, is so apparent, that it is hardly necessary to say that if I should adopt a different course, I should probably have more business on my hands than time to attend to it. If your correspondent wishes to discuss the subject with me, he can do so, when I am informed by his signature with whom the discussion is carried on. And this I shall do, not for the purpose of exalting myself, or of gaining notoriety; but only for the "common good," and so elucidate truth. "Rusticus" *has*, as it appears by his communication, mistaken the meaning of my article in the *Daily Advertiser*, by writing about the *healthy* function of the lungs, which I described as in a diseased condition. I should be pleased to continue this subject, provided it can be done in a fair and gentlemanly way; and that my *meaning* may not be *purposely* misunderstood.

March 27, 1860. CHAS. M. WOOD, V. S.

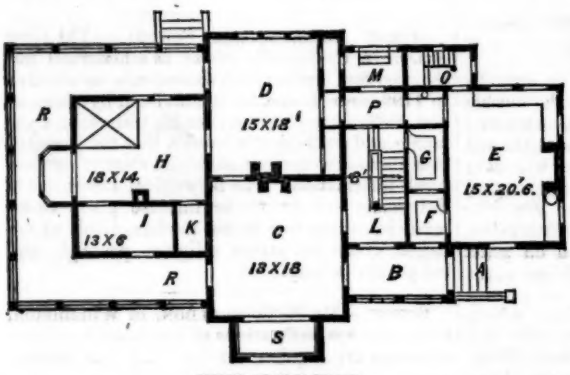
FIRST AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL.—The *New American Cyclopædia* states as a historical fact that the first agricultural school was established in 1790, near Berne, in Switzerland, by Emanuel von Fellenberg; that it is to his "illustrious example and enthusiastic labors, that the civilized world owes the present advanced state of agricultural information. The benevolent enterprise of Fellenberg was due to the impulse given to his mind in early youth by his mother, a lady of enlarged sympathy, active, religious principle, and intellectual ability."

SCIONS.—Mr. A. G. SHELDON, of Wilmington, thinks he has such scions of the Red Astrachan apples as are inquired for by "G. J.," of Somerville.



A SUBURBAN RESIDENCE.

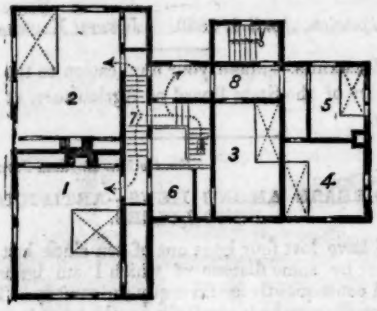
A short time ago we presented to our readers a representation of a house designed in the "New American Style" of Saeltzer & Valk. We give above another example of the same style, on a larger scale and designed to be built of brick. There are some things in the arrangement of the interior, and in the external appearance of this dwelling, which are not such as we should choose for our own residence, but as the matter of building is one upon which few persons are apt to take advice, we will simply present these plans, with the architect's statement, and withhold any criticism we might be disposed to make.



FIRST STORY PLAN.

The accompanying drawing represents the home of a farmer situated near Albany, N. Y. The main features and characteristics of the style are fully carried out, the plan comprising the owner's requirements and his desired arrangement of rooms, &c. As regards its adaptability for a farmer's home, we leave it for the many readers of this journal to judge. We ask careful examination of the plan, for it was required of us to produce the greatest amount of internal comfort, and at the same time produce a beautiful exterior, for the sum of $4500. On reference to the plan—*A* is the entrance porch; *B*, vestibule; *C*, parlor; *D*, dining-room; *L*, hall; *E*, kitchen; *F*, kitchen pantry; *G*, store-room; *P*, rear hall; *M*, rear entrance; *O*, back stairs; *H*, bedroom; *I*, dressing room; *K*, closet; *R*, verandah; *S*, bay window. It will be seen that the kitchen and accessories are distinct from the other rooms. The servants' stairs, *O*, ascend directly from the kitchen, while communication between the dining-room and kitchen is quite convenient. Dining-room has two closets; bedroom has bay window, this room being used as a sewing room; bedroom wing is only one story highe kitchen is well lighted on thre; sides, having dressers, boilers, sink, &c. The second story plan has five bed-rooms and bath-room, stories of main building are 12 and 10 feet high; those of wing 8

ft. 6 in. and 8 ft. high; the colors used in painting are dapple gray for the brick walls, light sienna for the wood-work, and blue for the roof, the combined effect being very interesting.



SECOND STORY PLAN.

In conclusion, we hope the subject of a new style will gradually become of more and more importance to our countrymen, and that humble as our efforts may be, they will not remain unappreciated. Respectfully,

SAELTZER & VALK, *Architects*,
Bible House, Astor Place, N. Y.

QUANTITY OF SEED TO AN ACRE.

Many experiments have been made, both in this country and in Europe, to ascertain, with precision, the quantity of seed necessary to insure the greatest amount of produce from a given surface. It is true that circumstances will often render it quite necessary to *vary* the quantity, even upon the same soil; and in Great Britain, where the climate, soil and mode of cultivation differ greatly from ours, rules and usages have been introduced which are not practical with us. As a general thing, however, the allowance of seed is there far more liberal than in America. In the cultivation of wheat, for instance, from three to four bushels of seed are allowed per acre. Six bushels of flax seed, and from three to four bushels of oats are sowed, and so on through the entire list of vegetables, whether roots or grains.

A gentleman in the State of New Jersey, some years since, being desirous of ascertaining some facts relative to seeding land, instituted certain experiments which he detailed in a paper read at the winter meeting of the "Yates County Agricultural Society," and of which the following is an abstract:

He sowed on the 23d of September, 1846, four diagrams with wheat. The soil had been subjected to a summer fallow, and had been plowed five times during the summer. The ground was prepared for sowing by finely pulverizing it with a hoe and a rake. Four diagrams were then correctly measured off, each two feet square, leaving a space of about six inches between each. The squares were then numbered and subdivided as follows: No. 1, in squares 1½ inches each way; No. 2, in squares of 3 inches; No. 3, in squares of 4 inches, and No. 4, in squares of 4⅔ inches, including the outside lines of each large square. One kernel of wheat was then planted in the corner of each small square.

On the 10th July following, the produce was carefully gathered, the four parallels being kept each by itself; the wheat was shelled by hand, and the number of grains in each parcel correctly counted, and the results, were as given in the following table:

	No. 1.	*No.* 2.	*No.* 3.	*No.* 4.
No. of grains planted	289	81	49	36
No. of grains that grew	203	60	40	30
No. of heads	286	136	112	104
Average number of grains per head	26	35	39	42
Whole number of grains	7458	4765	4452	4399
Yield per acre in bushels	108	69	64	63
	b. lbs.	*b. lbs.*	*lbs.*	*lbs.*
Seed per acre, in bushels and lbs.	4 12	1 10	42¾	31¼

On the 17th of August, four ounces of this wheat were weighed accurately by sealed scales, and by counting all the grains, it was found that there were 780 grains in one ounce, from which an estimate of the different yield, and also the rate of the different amounts of seed per acre. These are given in the table above. The soil, in this case, was a clayey loam which had never been manured, and had been kept for pasture during the six preceding years.

It is very desirable that the exact quantity of seed necessary for an acre should be accurately ascertained; but this can be effected only by a series of carefully managed experiments, for which practical men, with all the cares of a farm, can scarcely have the requisite time. Men of science, attached to our learned institutions, and those having professorships in our agricultural establishments, would do well to turn their attention more directly to this subject.

For the New England Farmer.

THE CATTLE DISEASE.

MR. EDITOR:—The following communication, which appears in the New York *Journal of Commerce*, is one of much value, and the experience of the writer in his successful treatment of his animals is worth consideration, whether the disease was contagious pleuro-pneumonia or simply a pleuritic-pneumonic disease, not of a contagious character. If I possessed animals showing the first symptoms of this disease, I should treat it precisely in the same manner. The causes of the malady are correctly given, with one addition, however, —*too low keeping* is as likely to cause the disease as *too high keeping*. If a diseased animal had, therefore, been insufficiently fed, his food should be increased. F.

Rhinebeck, March 20, 1860.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE JOURNAL OF COMMERCE.

Gentlemen:—Having seen in your yesterday's paper the account of a disease among the cattle

in Massachusetts, I will give you an experience of my own, in the hope it may be of some use.

About five years ago, I had a herd of fifty cattle attacked by a disease which destroyed fourteen in about ten days.

I found a description of the same symptoms in the "Pathologie Bovine" of M. Gelle. One instance recorded by him occurred near Neufchatel in 1830, and attacked the herds of one hundred and one proprietors. He calls it contagious pleuro-pneumonia. The animals had cough, fever and diarrhœa, ending with gangrene. The treatment recommended is, to take four quarts of blood from the diseased animal, and after the interval of a day, to make another smaller bleeding. Two pounds of glauber salts are to be dissolved in a gallon of barley water, and a pint given in every three hours.

After using these remedies, I lost but a single cow, which got wet in a shower during her convalescence.

The causes of the malady are insufficient ventilation of the cow stalls, high feeding and taking cold.

I immediately had my sheds well ventilated and whitewashed, reduced the feed, and the disease disappeared. L.

For the New England Farmer.

SICK CATTLE AT IPSWICH.

MR. EDITOR:—The reported disease among the cattle at Ipswich, and which the *Salem Register* has said was unfounded, has led me to make some inquiries, and I have received from Mr. Lowe the following statement, signed by himself and two of his neighbors. Some points of importance were omitted in his statement which I will give, viz: the first cow, (as near as he can recollect,) was taken January 10th, 1860, was sick six days; the ox was taken about a week after the cow died, and from the time the ox died to the time the second cow was taken was ten days, and from the time the second cow died to the time the third cow was taken, about four weeks; they have all lived about six days after being taken.

Topsfield, April 4, 1860. N. W. BROWN.

MR. LOWE'S STATEMENT.

About the middle of January, 1860, Mr. Thomas Lowe, of Ipswich, had a cow taken sick with symptoms as follows: she moved about as though she was trying to bring her weight on to her hind legs, refused to eat or drink, would put her nose on her side as though there was pain in her lungs, breathed heavily, run some at the nose, and appeared to have some cold, sweat very much at times, and then would be hot and dry. She lingered about six days and died. An ox was taken in the same herd with the same symptoms, and died; then the second cow was taken and died; then the third cow was taken the same way and died. No two were sick at the same time, and none appeared to be swollen as from poison. It is believed and feared, by some of the farmers in Ipswich, that this disease may be the same as that prevailing at North Brookfield, and they would like, if another case appears, to have it investigated by the same men that have visited those cases in Brookfield, and if it appears to be the same disease, to have the same protection by the State, if there is any, as is afforded the farmers in the Western part of the State. Some of the farmers will sign their names below as witnesses of the above statement.

(*Signed,*) THOMAS LOWE.
FRANCIS BROWN.
Ipswich, April 4, 1860. JOSEPH KINSMAN.

REMARKS.—Make your application to the Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture, at Boston.

For the New England Farmer.

DISEASE AMONG HENS---ARTIFICIAL FERTILIZERS.

I have lost four hens out of ten since last October by some disease of which I am ignorant, and consequently could apply no remedy. They were all attacked precisely in the same way, at different times, with loss of the use of their legs, drooping of their wings, falling over backward when attempting to walk; some of them lived several weeks in this state, others died within less than forty-eight hours after being taken. My hens are of mixed breeds, generally hardy and good layers, and are well fed on corn, oats, barley, boiled potatoes, and occasionally on animal food, and supplied with fresh water, and were protected from bad weather by access to a comfortable barn cellar, with a dry roosting-place attached to the yard, where they are shut up a part of the year. I shall feel under much obligation to any one who may be able, through the columns of the monthly *Farmer*, to give me information of the name of the disease, its cause and remedy, if any is known to them.

I am desirous of trying on a limited scale "Mapes' Nitrogenized Superphosphate of Lime," and the "Jarvis Island Guano," on corn land. If any of your correspondents have tested either or both of the articles, and will give their experience of the quantity required for an acre, the manner of applying it, and whether it would be safe to rely on either alone to insure a good crop of corn on grass land, broken up last fall, soil a clay loam, naturally strong and favorable for good crops, but so much exhausted by long cropping for hay as not to produce more than one-half to three-fourths of a ton to the acre, such information will be very important, and confer a favor on many other farmers as well as myself.

Still River, March 26, 1860. L. B. H.

REMARKS.—We have used the Jarvis Island guano with the most satisfactory results, by placing about a wine-glass full in each hill, and dropping the corn directly upon it. We have never used the superphosphate on corn.

CURE FOR RINGBONE.—I succeeded in removing the lameness of a ringbone, by making a bag of strong linen cloth, about two inches broad, and eight inches long, which I filled with copperas, tied on the foot just above the ringbone, and wet twice a day. Keep it on about four weeks. The man that told me of this said he had cured several in this way.—W. H. CHAFFEE, *in Rural New-Yorker.*

For the New England Farmer.

THE WILD LANDS OF LONG ISLAND.

LETTER FROM JUDGE FRENCH.

Islip, Long Island, April 4, 1860.

MY DEAR MR. BROWN:—Take the Long Island Railroad at the South Ferry in Brooklyn, just across from the great city of New York, and rattle along about forty miles, and stop at North Islip Station, and devote two or three days to agricultural observation, and you may find as much to interest you as you would be likely to meet were you to travel a thousand miles in many directions. Young men, determined to prosper in the world, do not hesitate to seek good and cheap lands in Kansas and California, severing all the dear ties of home and kindred, and risking health, too, in the enterprise, when oftentimes there are lands within the sound of the church-going bell, as good and as cheap, close by good markets and civilized society, which are overlooked, because they are so near, and require so little enterprise to attain.

Whether any such lands are in this neighborhood, our readers may judge from the facts I shall state.

Long Island is about 120 miles long, and from eight to fourteen miles in width. The two ends were settled nearly two hundred years ago, and for nearly that time, roads have been opened along both shores, and the land through nearly the whole extent has been under good cultivation, yet when the railroad was opened, about 1845, there remained a tract some forty miles long and four to eight miles wide, with no more signs of cultivation or improvement than may be found in the desert of Sahara. Even now, though the railway passes nearly through its centre, the wild deer have not been scared entirely from their haunts, and trout abound in many streams.

What has doomed this land to desolation within less than two hours, by rail, of the great commercial city of New York, with its 700,000 inhabitants, daily offering their gold for the products of the soil?

What's in a name? Through a rose by any any other name may smell as sweet, yet were you to advertise it for sale by the name of a skunk-cabbage, probably few noses would go out of their way to test its fragrance. Whoever was author of the names of places in this island probably christened his boys Judas Iscariot and Benedict Arnold, and named his homestead Sodom. King's County and Queen's County are not names inviting to revolutionary ears; Flatbush and Bushville and Hardscrabble are not suggestive of grand old forests or vines and fig trees, or even of "green pastures by still waters; there is not much of harmony or poetry in Quogue and Patchogue and Yaphank. Jerusalem and Bethpage have not much of the Young America progressiveness in their associations, and finally, when you see as a principal place on the map, actually *Babylon*, the matter begins to grow serious. They say Long Island is of more recent formation than the world about it. Some say it came up from below, and a timid man might suspect that he who reigns over the lower regions may have restored his favorite city, which we read of as "fallen," to the earth, in a new place. No, there is not much in a name, but you and I would not advise a young farmer to buy a farm in Hardscrabble, or to look for a wife among the ladies of Babylon.

The railway excavations have a red and sandy look; the slightly undulating, prairie-like surface, is mostly covered with scrub-oaks, and has been recently blackened by fire, so that one's judgment is in no danger of being seduced by appeals to his emotions of beauty. There is, much, however, to interest a careful observer of this strange region, and after a critical examination occupying several days, spade in hand, I feel qualified to present the condition of these lands to the consideration of those who are looking for new homes, advising no one, however, to purchase, without a thorough personal investigation. Although Cobbett, who was a prophet in agriculture, had his American home on the island, and although some of the wealthiest farmers in the country have elegant homes and farms here, yet there is room for some slight improvements in particular localities. For instance, at Farmingdale station, to-day, we saw a cow harnessed with a horse-collar and rope-traces to a plow which was held by one man while another led the animal, plowing a garden. In all Europe, I never saw the beat of that for plowing. Again, on the road from Babylon to Islip, I saw a load of manure on a wagon drawn by four poor oxen, driven by a man sitting on top of the load, with ropes fastened to the noses of the forward yoke, halter-fashion, the driver holding the ends of the ropes in his hand like reins. On the same road we met a gentleman, or some other kind of man, driving a poor thin ox in a single wagon, probably on a pleasure excursion. A young friend with us kept a sharp look-out for a lady of whom he had read, who used to live in Babylon, and dressed in scarlet clothes, but she was not visible.

Babylon is a good farming region, with tasteful parks and fertile fields. From there to Islip, on a fine old road, are beautiful residences and grounds, occupied in summer by New York millionaires. Several places were also pointed out adorned with grape-houses, fish-ponds and elegant mansions, which were valued at more than $60,000 each.

The lands, which I particularly examined, and have spoken of as wild, lie four or five miles from

this highway directly on the railroad, but there is evidently a great uniformity, and so all writers agree, in the structure and quality of the whole interior of the island. At Hempstead, only ten miles from the city, is, however, a tract known as the "Hempstead Plains," which presents a different appearance from the rest. It is a prairie, slightly undulating, of smooth, grassy surface, entirely free from tree or bush, 17,000 acres of which are owned by the inhabitants of Hempstead in common, and used for pasture. Leaving now this superficial sketch, I will give a more particular description of the soil, climate and capabilities of the wild lands near Islip, which have been recently advertised for sale in the *Farmer*.

As, however, any tolerably accurate impression of them must occupy more room than can now be spared, I will continue the subject in a future number.

For the New England Farmer.

COFFEE.

MR. EDITOR :—In a late *Farmer*, I noticed an inquiry by "S. W. M." in relation to raising coffee in the New England States. I do not purpose to reply to this, but in my opinion, though the thing may be practicable, his time and trouble might be expended otherwise to better advantage, considering the temperature of the latitudes in which it is produced.

Reading the above-mentioned article, however, reminded me of a substitute, or rather a partial substitute for coffee, which we have used in our family, and which I will give for the benefit of your readers. It is prepared as follows: Take a quantity of barley, and roast it by a gentle heat, till of a light brown color. Stir in among it a lump of butter on taking from the oven. This is to be ground and mixed with the coffee in equal proportions. Infuse in the usual manner. The beverage is scarcely to be distinguished in flavor from pure coffee.

Coffee may be very much improved by the addition of a small quantity of carrots, prepared as below. They should be thinly sliced, and carefully dried and browned in a moderate oven. A handful added to the coffee before boiling, gives more body to it, and greatly enriches the flavor.

Bath, March 12, 1860. A READER.

MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—From Eben Wight, Corresponding Secretary, we have received specimen sheets of the Report of this Society for 1859. The dissertations or reports of the various committees are valuable documents. We notice some strictures on the management of green-houses that all would do well to read who have, or propose to have, plants "live in glass houses." The weekly shows of the Society are to be continued free to the public, during the ensuing season, thus affording people from the country who visit the city on Saturday an opportunity of seeing what fruits and flowers our soil and climate are capable of producing.

For the New England Farmer.

FIRES IN THE WOODS.

DEAR SIR :—I have frequently thought that farmers do not have that security and protection against fires in the woods that they ought to have, and as no one has called the attention of those most interested to the subject, I have ventured to solicit your co-operation in waking them up to their duty. It is nothing uncommon to be called to three or four fires on a dry, pleasant day in the spring or early summer months, especially on the Sabbath; time and again have we been called out, in the midst of divine service, to subdue fires set in the woods by careless, reckless, strolling smokers. The increasing habit of spending the Sabbath in strolling over the woods and fields, in the vicinity of our cities and large villages, must be broken up, or our woodlands will become entirely worthless from the frequency of fires to which they are subjected. There is also that silly habit of travelling the streets with a fire under the end of one's nose; even in hot weather, how often we see half-human locomotives trudging along in the highways and byways of our country towns, with an old tobacco pipe in their mouth, sometimes walking beside the skeleton of an old starved horse, and sometimes riding in a gay equipage at a 2.40 pace; how disgusting to see the human face divine with a dirty stick in the centre, with a little fire on the end, built in a diminutive furnace, and that delicate, matchless machinery, the human lungs, used as bellows, puffing and blowing, for the sake of burning up a little Virginia tobacco, and nauseating the pure air with the villainous smell. If that was all, we could possibly endure it; but when we take into consideration the numberless fires that originate from that same habit, I think it high time that the Legislature pass some stringent law against smoking in the highways and byways of the country.

Why should we be subjected to so much anxiety, trouble and loss? There is almost as much risk in a smoker's passing through woodland in a dry time, as there would be in going through a powder-house. How perfectly natural for a careless smoker to light his pipe, and throw down his match in the pine boughs or leaves, and by the time he is out of sight, the fire will blaze to the tops of the trees, and some honest, hard-working farmer will be subjected to the loss of hundreds of dollars, beside hindering himself and his neighbors half a day or more, to subdue the fire. Being a working farmer, verging on three-score years and ten, I do not expect to be able to put my thoughts in language pleasing to "ears polite," but deem it a duty I owe to my neighbors and myself to call your attention to it in my rough and uncouth way, you being a legislator and editor of an able agricultural paper.

A CONSTANT READER.

Chelmsford, Feb. 11, 1860.

REMARKS.—We believe a large proportion of the fires that occur in town or country, are occasioned directly, or indirectly, by smoking, as half the men in the land, and—with shame we say it—some of the women carry matches about them most of the time. Smoking in the streets is a nuisance, and ought to be abated as such.

For the New England Farmer.

MAKING MAPLE SUGAR.

The season for making maple sugar is at hand, and I see no one has written upon the subject. I propose to tell your readers how it is made in old Cheshire county, but in order to do it, give you a history of a visit to A. & C. Smith's, Pottersville, sugar works, one of the best of manufactories. They have at the foot of a hill, a house 14 by 26, and a wood-house attached. They have two arches, and two sheet-iron pans to each arch, one set one foot higher than the other; this is done so as to draw the sap out of the upper pans with a syphon, so as to change from one pan to another, and to avoid dipping, which is thought to color the sap. The cold sap is kept about four rods from the house, in a resovoir, on a bank so high, as to run by turning a faucet through a window, to either pan as they please. This saves a great deal of labor. About 60 rods up the hill, they have another lot, and a reservoir with a faucet attached, and troughs made of boards, 2¼ inches by 3 inches, and some 3¼ by 4, to carry it to the lower lot, all painted yellow. It takes two hours to carry a hogshead over the line from one lot to the other. They have another lot with reservoirs, painted yellow, with a faucet to carry the sap in troughs, 27 rods, to the other branch, 20 rods from the lower lot. They draw at any time, except when it freezes or rains. One would suppose that snow would trouble the troughs, but it is not so, being painted, they will clear themselves. The crotches, holding the troughs, are put up in November, and taken up when the sugar season is over and piled together. When the sap arrives at the lower reservoir, it is strained through woolen; they calculate to syrup off once a day, and do not take the pan off, but use snow to quell the fire. The pans are washed before being filled. The syrup is strained through woolen flannel, and at the end of this process, if all is clean, there will be no settlings.

The syrup is done off in tin pans, from 8 to 12 pounds to a batch, on a stove, or an arch, and boiled down till it will dry off in a spoon, and when it has grained, it is turned out into tin cups two inches square, till cooled. Some put in milk and eggs to cleanse it, but if every thing is kept clean, it is worse than nothing, because it is more likely to burn, and many times you have to strain it to get rid of it.

They sell their sugar at the door from ten to fifteen cents a pound; some years they have orders for lots in molasses, and they sell from 800 to 1200 pounds a year of sugar. I find there is no trouble in making and selling sugar, if all is kept neat and clean. MAPLE.

P. S. You will find the two oldest sheet-iron pans here and still good; they were built in 1838, got up by Aaron Smith and John Wight, and built by Wm. Norwood, of Keene, since spread over New England as one of the best inventions.

LET THE STOMACH HAVE ITS CRAVING.—In the diseases produced by bad food, such as scorbutic dysentery and diarrhœa, the patient's stomach often craves for, and digests things, some of which certainly would be laid down in no dietary that ever was invented for the sick, and especially not for such sick. These are fruit, pickles, jams, gingerbread, fat of ham or of bacon, suet, cheese, butter, milk. These cases I have seen not by ones, nor by tens, but by hundreds. And the patient's stomach was right, and the book was wrong. The articles craved for, in these cases, might have been principally arranged under the two heads of fat and vegetable acids. There is often a marked difference between men and women in this matter of sick feeding. Women's digestion is generally slower.—*Florence Nightingale.*

For the New England Farmer.

TRANSPLANTING CORN.

MR. BROWN:—A gentleman of my acquaintance from New Hampshire, whom I met sometime during the winter, interested me much by relating some experiments he had made in transplanting corn, and I desired him to write some account of them for the *N. E. Farmer.* To-day I received from him the following paper, which I am gratified to forward to you. The subject is of more especial importance to those who live north of us, where the season is shorter. But it will be obvious to those who cultivate sweet corn for the market, and to those who wish to obtain early corn for their own use two or three weeks before the corn in the garden or field is fit for the table, that the paper contains a suggestion of much practical importance. Now is the time; who will try the plan? Yours, &c., JOSEPH REYNOLDS.

MR. EDITOR:—I wish to say a few words to the readers of your paper upon the subject of transplanting corn. In the northern parts of New Hampshire and Vermont, and more especially in the Canadas, the season is too short for the corn crops. The deep snows of winter are slow to melt away, and the winds of spring, blowing from the frozen regions of the north-west, are so cold that the ground cannot be safely planted, until quite late in the season. This makes the corn crop late, and exposes it to the early frosts of autumn, which in those regions usually come in August. For this reason, it often happens that the hard labor of the farmer in plowing, planting, hoeing, &c., is almost lost, and his fond hopes of a full storehouse of golden ears of corn for the support of his family and stock are all blasted. It almost always happens that his crop is injured to some degree.

It will be readily seen, that if corn could be so cultivated that it would ripen a month earlier than usual, it would be of great advantage to the corn-growers of those places. I am of the opinion that this can be effected by transplanting. This opinion is derived from my own experience, and also that of others. I was led to test the possibility of successfully transplanting corn in the summer of 1857, because the ground where I wished to raise sweet corn was naturally so wet, and the season that year was so backward, that I knew it would not ripen if cultivated in the usual way. About a month before the ground would be in a suitable state for planting, I planted the corn in a dry, sunny place, making the hills containing four or five kernels each, a few inches apart, each way. The corn came up and grew slowly, yet with sufficient rapidity, and by the time the ground

where it was to be transplanted became dry, it was four or five inches high, about as high as corn is ever hoed the first time. I then prepared the ground, and with the use of a tin shovel or scoop, such as is used in a flour barrel, took up the hills and transplanted them. The result was that every hill lived, that the corn ripened a month earlier than other corn, and was the best piece in the neighborhood. The success of this experiment led me to consider the advantages which would be derived, if corn should be transplanted, and reflection seemed to show me the following

ADVANTAGES.

1. The corn would not suffer from the worms, as it would be too large for them to injure, before it is transplanted.
2. For the same reason, the crows would not injure it.
3. It would save the first hoeing, a very important consideration.
4. The corn would so soon take the strength of the ground, and overshadow it, that there would be but very few weeds.
5. The ground, so recently plowed, (just before transplanting,) would be so mellow, and the roots would strike down so deep, that the corn would be less affected by drought.
6. The corn would ripen before the usual great droughts of August.
7. Hoeing would not interfere with haying.
8. The corn would fill out the last of July, or first of August, before the cold nights come on, which so much prevent corn from filling out well.
9. The corn would be secure against frosts.
10. Corn could be raised upon wet land, which is not so much affected by drought.
11. The corn could be gathered in season to sow winter wheat, if desired.

It is needless to remark that each one of these advantages is great, and that the sum of them all is very great. If the corn crop of New England could have been a month earlier than it was last year, it would have been many hundred thousand dollars greater than it was. If the labor necessary to hoe corn the first time can be saved, then the greatest and most difficult part of the work of raising corn may be dispensed with. It is then a most important question, Can corn be transplanted to advantage? To this the reply immediately suggests itself, that the labor of transplanting would be so great as to render it impracticable. Most would come to such a conclusion at once. But may it not be possible that the amount of this labor is exaggerated by those who have given the subject but little thought? May it not be that some means can be adopted by which it can be accomplished much easier than one at first would suppose? I think so, and will propose my way, in which it seems to me it may be done economically.

DIRECTIONS FOR TRANSPLANTING CORN.

Prepare boxes about 4 feet long, 3 feet wide, and 5 inches high. Make one of the sides so that it can be easily removed. Fill these boxes with loam mixed with some manure. Then prepare some strips of board 2½ inches wide, 5 inches long, and as thin as the blade of a hoe. Put these down endwise into the loam, so as to divide the loam into squares, 2½ inches square and 5 inches deep. (As these squares are each to contain a hill of corn, it will be seen that the thin strips are to prevent the roots of one hill from interfering with those of another.) Place these boxes in a sunny place, well protected from the west wind, and about a month before the usual planting time, plant 4 or 5 kernels of corn in each one of these squares. By planting time, that corn will be 5 or 6 inches high. Having prepared the ground and opened the hills, put these boxes into a cart, drive over the ground, take the hills of corn from the boxes in the hand, put them into the prepared hill, press the earth around them, and the corn is at once planted and hoed the first time. It would be well to use some phosphate of lime or hen manure, so as to cause the corn to start immediately. In a short time the corn will be as large as usual when hoed the second time.

It will be seen that, by this process, the labor of transplanting is not so very great, not near as great as that of the hoeing, which is saved. The boxes and the thin strips which separate the hills, when once made, would last ten or twelve years, and the labor of filling them, planting the corn in them, &c., would come so early in the season, that it would not be of so much consequence. It would not take so many boxes to transplant an acre of land as would at first be supposed. If in every square foot of the boxes, there are twenty-five hills, as there may be, then a rod square of boxes will furnish hills enough to transplant more than an acre and an half of ground, if the rows are four feet apart one way, and three feet the other.

It is very evident that the management of these boxes would require some wisdom and care. The loam should not be very rich, as it is desirable to transplant from a poorer into a richer soil. Sandy or gravelly loam is better, as it is warmer. If the corn manifests a want of sufficient nutriment, then liquid manure should be added sparingly. In very cold nights it should be covered over. The corn will be spindling, because the hills are so near together. But that will be remedied as soon as it is transplanted.

My object in presenting this subject to your readers, is to induce them to consider the subject, and, if they think best, to test it by experiments upon their farms. It was tested last summer by several farmers with perfect success, yet not upon a very large scale. I feel that, if I can do anything to enable farmers to produce the most important crop of this part of the country more surely, more abundantly and more economically, I shall do much good. M.

For the New England Farmer.

HOW TO RAISE CABBAGE.

In answer to "An Old Subscriber," who inquires how to raise good cabbages, I will tell him how I have managed. I prepare my ground in the spring by plowing in to the depth of fourteen inches, a liberal dressing of green stable manure, after which the ground is spaded over, and receives a surface dressing of salt and ashes. I plant my cabbages in hills about the 10th of May, and when two or three inches high, I pick out the plants to distances four or five inches apart, and when they are five inches high, I transplant them, setting them in rows three feet each way, which gives room to work among them. I hoe them

twice a week through the season, and sometimes when there is danger of the heads bursting, I tip them over sideways, which starts the roots and prevents further damage; by this course of treatment, I find no difficulty in making ninety plants out of a hundred head and grow to a large size. For a winter cabbage, I think Comstock's Premium Flat Dutch decidedly superior to all other varieties. Old rotten manures are not good for cabbages, from their being full of worms and insects which prey upon the roots of the plants, producing the "clump foot," which ruins the cabbage.

L. B. PHILBRICK.

South Deerfield, N. H., March 20, 1860.

For the New England Farmer.

PRUNING APPLE TREES.

MR. EDITOR:—In your issue of March 17, a correspondent expresses some of his ideas "on pruning apple trees," which do not, all of them, chime in with my own.

He thinks it is better not to prune at all after the trees begin to bear fruit, but to let nature have her own way; and asks if nature is ever at fault in the formation and growth of a tree. Now, if nature needs no looking after, why does he prune the tree before it comes to a bearing state? Why not let nature have its course at one time as well as another in the life of a tree? If nature can always be trusted, why does she ofttimes allow the fruit of the apple tree, and many other trees, to set itself so thickly that, if it was allowed to remain and ripen, the branches would be broken down, and the tree ruined, unless it was propped and supported in the most careful manner?

That many persons prune their trees too much, there is no doubt, but a little judicious use of the knife or fine saw at the right time of the year—from June to November—sometimes is needed by trees of all ages; and this fact is in accordance with the experience of the most successful fruit-growers of the land.

Your correspondent also objects to the scraping and washing of trees. Now, to scrape a young, smooth-barked tree, would be a foolish operation, surely, but when the bark of a tree has naturally, (as they will sometimes, let them be cared for ever so well,) become thick and shaggy, and interspersed with patches of moss, affording shelter for numerous insects, it ought to be carefully removed—no matter who says to the contrary.

Washing trees, also, prevents the accumulation of moss, &c., and helps to keep off destructive insects. Unless trees are washed, especially young trees, in June, July and August, with some offensive substance, the greatest "bore" of the farmer, the apple tree borer, is almost sure to commence its destructive work; and those trees which have received the most care are most liable to be attacked.

If "M." can keep the borers away from his trees without applying some sort of a wash, will he have the kindness to inform the public how he has done it?

The wash which I have used with good success is the following: Make nearly a pailful of soapsuds—not too strong—add a little pulverized brimstone, hen manure, and enough clay to make it adhesive. This wash should be applied three or four times during the summer months, or as often as it comes off the tree.

S. L. WHITE.

Groton, March 29, 1860.

For the New England Farmer.

FOWL MEADOW AND HUNGARIAN GRASSES.

GENTLEMEN:—In behalf of myself and others of your subscribers, I would inquire, What is the character of fowl meadow grass? It is something new with us. Is it adapted to very low swamp lands? I have a swamp lot that I cleared up last season, and late in the fall I burned it over. Will the seed take without breaking it up? Judging from the article in your paper of the 14th inst., I should think that the writer of that article sowed his seed without breaking up.

Is the seed to be had of Messrs. Nourse, Mason & Co., and how much is required to the acre?

I would like the views of some of your subscribers, "who have had the practical knowledge," as to the profit and value of Hungarian grass?

JOS. M. BISHOP.

Shoreham, Vt., March, 1860.

REMARKS.—Cattle are very fond of this grass, so that it is usually worth two-thirds the price of the best English hay. It loves low, moist land, but not "very low swamp lands." It may be introduced by sowing its seed on the sward of meadow or swale land, without breaking up. Hungarian grass is a species of millet, and is an annual plant. It usually gives a large crop, and is excellent for feeding out green to stock in the summer. We have cut one crop only for dry fodder, but found it a good one. The objection to raising it is, the necessity for plowing and seeding every spring.

For the New England Farmer.

CULTURE OF SHEEP AND PINES.

MR. EDITOR:—I noticed in a recent number of the *Farmer*, that Mr. E. W. Gardner, by figuring and guessing at how much wood an acre of land, set to pines, would produce thirty years hence, claims a larger profit than stocking with sheep would give. He says the land will, in thirty years, produce 20 cords of wood per acre, which is worth $6 per cord; deducting $2 per cord for cutting and carting, will leave $4, which is equal to $80 for thirty years.

Let us see what we can do for the sheep. In the first place, I shall claim one acre to keep a sheep, as it is not, or ought not to be called pasture, if it will not; or, at least, think I am as safe in reckoning it at that, as friend Gardner is in guessing at his twenty cords of wood, thirty years hence. Allow one acre to keep one ewe sheep, which will raise one lamb, (and perhaps two,) which is worth at least $2,50 in August, to go to market; 4 lbs. of wool at 40 cents, $1,60, making $4,10; deducting $1 for keeping in winter, which is the common price, gives $3,10 per year, or $93 for thirty years. He says if any sheep husbandman can make up the other side of the account to match his, he should be pleased to

hear from him. I am a keeper of sheep, and make my figures no higher than my experience proves to be true, which I think will pay a larger profit than setting land to pines, and guessing at the quantity of wood it will produce in thirty years.

Hatfield, March, 1860. J. E. W.

For the New England Farmer.

WORMS IN APPLES.

MR. EDITOR:—In the *Farmer* of February 25 there is a communication from Mr. S. L. White, headed "Worms in Apples." I have been for a long time expecting, yet fearing, to see something like that. It may well produce alarm, for it threatens the destruction of all the summer and the autumn apples.

In 1835, an apple was given to me that grew about four miles west of my home. In it I found the maggots as described by Mr. White, adding to his description black heads. Five years later they appeared in the sweet apples of my orchard, and rapidly increased, until now, for some years, we cannot have a summer or autumn apple come to perfection, excepting one fine sweet variety that ripens in August—this appearing to get the start of the pests by its early maturity. The bug Mr. White saw, I think, was not the perfected insect. The worm makes a very small brownish-red fly, I am quite sure. There is any amount of them in the fruit rooms, in the late fall and early winter, but I have never found one when the fruit is growing on the trees. How the egg gets into the apple is more than I can guess, for there is not the least appearance on the surface of injury.

The orchards a few miles below us in Plymouth that are exposed to the winds direct from the sea, do not appear to be affected by this nameless depredator. CALEB BATES.

Kingston, Mass., 1860.

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

NON-INFLAMMABLE DRESS FABRICS.

The ladies will be glad to learn that a method has been discovered by which any dress fabric may be rendered uninflammable. By direction of Queen Victoria, two distinguished English chemists undertook a series of experiments which have resulted in determining that a solution containing seven per cent. of the crystals or sixty-two per cent. of anhydrous salt is perfectly anti-flammable. They remark: "Tungstate of soda ranges among the salts which are manufactured on a large scale, and at a cheap rate. A solution containing twenty per cent. renders the muslin perfectly non-inflammable. It acts, apparently, by firmly enveloping the fibre, and thereby excluding the contact with the air. It is very smooth and of a fatty appearance, like talc, and this property facilitates the ironing process, which all other salts resist." The following formula is given as having proved efficacious, and will simplify the application: "A concentrated neutral solution of tungstate of soda is diluted with water to 28° Twaddle (an alkaliometer, so called,) and then mixed with three per cent. of phosphate of soda. This solution was found to keep and to answer well. It has been introduced into Her Majesty's laundry, where it is constantly used." The solution can be applied to any fabric. It is only necessary to dip the cleansed article in the prepared fluid, then drain and dry it, after which it may be ironed; or, if preferred, the solution may be incorporated with the starch to be used in the stiffening. The lightest materials, when submitted to this preparation, may char and shrivel, but they will not blaze.

NEEDLE-WORK.

There is something extremely pleasant, and even touching—at least, of very sweet, soft, winning effect—in this peculiarity of needle-work, distinguishing women from men. Our own sex is incapable of any such by-play aside from the main business of life; but women—be they of what earthly rank they may, however gifted with intellect or genius, or endowed with awful beauty—have always some little handiwork ready to fill the tiny gap of every vacant moment. A needle is familiar to the fingers of them all. A queen, no doubt, plies it on occasion; the woman-poet can use it as adroitly as her pen; the woman's eye that has discovered a new star, turns from its glory to send the polished little instrument gleaming along the hem of her kerchief, or to darn a casual fray in her dress. And they have greatly the advantage of us in this respect. The slender thread of silk or cotton keeps them united with the small, familiar, gentle interests of life, the continually operating influences of which do so much for the health of the character, and carry off what would otherwise be a dangerous accumulation of morbid sensibility. A vast deal of human sympathy runs along this electric line, stretching from the throne to the wicker-chair of the humblest seamstress, keeping high and low in a species of communion with their kindred beings. Methinks it is a token of healthy and gentle characteristics, when women of high thoughts and accomplishments love to sew, especially as they are never more at home with their own hearts, than while so occupied.—*Hawthorne's New Romance.*

CLEANLINESS.—The first thing to be attended to after rising, is the bath. The vessel which is dignified, like a certain part of a lady's dress, with a royal order, is one on which folios might be written. It has given a name to two towns—Bath and Baden—renowned for their toilets, and it is all that is left in three continents of Roman glory. It is a club room in Germany and the East, and was an arena in Greece and Rome. It was in a bath that the greatest destroyer of life had his own destroyed, when he had bathed all France in blood. But Clarence, I am convinced, has been much maligned. He has been called a drunkard, and people shudder at his choosing that death in which he could not but die in sin; but for my part, so far as the Malmsey is concerned, I am inclined to think that he only showed himself a gentleman to the last. He was determined to die clean, and he knew, like the Parisian ladies, who sacrifice a dozen of champagne to their morning ablutions, that wine has a peculiarly softening effect upon the skin. Besides champagne, the exquisites of Paris use milk, which is supposed to lend whiteness to the skin.—*Habits of Good Society.*